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OPINION METER

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Most Americans still oppose legal-
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Two children and two years later,
Jennifer Lopez has resurfaced with
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3 CUC clients overdue by \$5.1 M

- PSS: \$3.251 million
- Central gov't: \$1.361 million
- NMC: \$498,602

'Disconnecting gov't offices, PSS, NMC a real possibility'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s biggest customers—the Public School System, the central government, and the Northern Marianas College—owe the utility agency a total of \$5.1 million as of January this year, posing a very real possibility that these accounts could be disconnected.

Convict's sentence commuted due to outstanding record in prison, says Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial commuted the 25-year sentence of convicted "ice" trafficker David T. Diaz because of his "outstanding record" in prison—including painting a school bus stop and helping at the 2008 Liberation Day—as well as the support of the Department of Corrections and community members.

The governor said Diaz "has expressed remorse and regret for his actions."

The Board of Parole issued Diaz his certificate of parole on March 12, over a month after Fitial commuted his sentence on Feb. 4, 2010.

A copy of the governor's one-page commutation, obtained by

See FITAL on Page 4

CUC executive director Tony Muña said that PSS has the biggest overdue account—a total of \$3.251 million—which includes balances from Fiscal Year 2008 and from September 2009 to date.

The central government, meantime, has incurred a total

of \$1.361 million in unpaid bills as of the January 2010 billing date, while NMC owes CUC \$498,602, dating back to the billing date in August 2009.

Muña said yesterday that because of the serious financial

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RELATED NEWS

CUC's non-technical losses currently at 4 percent.

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2 more lawmakers volunteer pay cut

Others in wait-and-see mode

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Sylvester I. Iguel (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) have volunteered to cut their salaries by 12.5 percent and 10 percent respectively, a day after two freshman lawmakers did the same to help save jobs and reduce government costs.

"If there's going to be cut in salary of government employees, we as leaders must do it first. If we call for pay cuts, we

must be the first one to cut our salaries," Iguel told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan) on Monday took the lead in submitting themselves to a 12.5-percent voluntary salary cut to help save the jobs of lower-paid government employees. Santos said she expects others to follow suit.

Iguel, Santos and Basa ran and got elected as lawmakers

See 2 MORE on Page 4



MICE TRAVELERS

South Korea employees on a company trip to the Northern Mariana Islands enjoy the warm tropical weather at Saipan World Resort in March 2010. Over the last six weeks the Northern Marianas has welcomed nearly 2,000 Korean business travelers, sometimes called MICE travelers—visitors coming to the islands for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, or Exhibitions. See related story on Page 6.

MVA

Woman in biggest 'ice' haul gets 20 months in prison. PAGE 2
With no funding, Flame Tree Fest pares down this year. PAGE 6

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Local

4 ASNMC officers certified as student leaders at nat'l confab

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Officers of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College were credentialed as student leaders at a recent national conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

ASNMC president Milesceelyn Rodriguez, vice president Daniel Kintol, secretary Stacey Demapan, and treasurer Min Seon Mindy Park were trained in the ways of being effective student leaders at the National Conference on Student Leadership. The

four student leaders from NMC joined 114 other students from various colleges and universities in the United States.

ASNMC is the four-member student governing body at NMC that shapes the core of student leadership.

It was the aim of the conference to assist student leaders in enhancing leadership and organizational management skills in order to continue making a positive impact on their student body and campus community.

"The theme of the confer-

ence, which was connect and lead, taught us that as student body leaders we need to be able to connect with the students in order to lead them more effectively," said Rodriguez.

She is confident the knowledge and skills they gained from the conference will make them more productive leaders for NMC students and the general community.

At the conference, the four student leaders attended several training workshops that focused on how to conduct efficient meetings, how to better resolve



Members of the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College pose with their recently earned Certified Student Leader certificates. From left, secretary Stacey Demapan, treasurer Min Seon "Mindy" Park, vice president Daniel Kintol, and president Milesceelyn Rodriguez recently attended the National Conference on Student Leadership in Atlanta, Georgia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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conflicts, how to create a diverse environment for students, and how to launch promotional campaigns effectively. After the workshops, they were tested on the various topics that were covered. The ASNMC leaders all passed the examination and were awarded the certified student leaders credentials.

"We are extremely proud of the ASNMC officers for earning this certification," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera, adding that the training

will certainly help bring about improvements to the overall management and representation of the college's student body through the enhanced leadership skills that the young officers will share with the rest of the NMC community.

Rodriguez is pursuing an associate degree in Nursing, while Demapan is pursuing an associate degree in Liberal Arts. Park is currently a nursing major, while Kintol is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice.

Woman in NMI's biggest 'ice' haul gets 20 months in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court imposed yesterday a 20-month prison term on a woman who was among four persons busted in the biggest haul of methamphetamine or "ice" in the CNMI.

Chun Mei Lin, a Chinese national, was sentenced to 20 months in prison for possession of a controlled substance (13 grams of "ice") with intent to distribute, and for illegal distribution of ephedrine, a listed chemical.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Mark W. Bennett gave the 35-year-old Lin credit for the time she had already spent in prison.

After completing her prison term, Lin shall be turned over to an immigration official for deportation proceedings.

Lin was also required to perform 100 hours of community service and to pay a \$200 special assessment fee.

Bennett granted defense attorney Colin Thompson's recommendation that the defendant be placed in a facility where there are other Mandarin speaking defendants.

Lin and counsel Thompson signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. She pleaded guilty.

At yesterday's hearing, assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto recommended a 24-month prison term and three years of supervised release.

Thompson recommended time served and probation. He, however, conceded that the government's recommendation of 24 months was fair.

In an interview, Thompson said the court determined that the 20-month prison term was the right sentence to punish Lin for her wrongdoing and provide a deterrence to others who might commit the same crime.

Thompson said the judge recognized Lin as a very hard-working and caring mother who he believes will not do this crime again. Lin has three children in China.

"And the court balanced those interests and came up with what he believes to be the appropriate sentence," he said.

The defense lawyer said Lin expressed remorse and that she apologized to the CNMI community and to her family.

"She accepted responsibility for the crime," Thompson added.

In August 2009, Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested Lin, Yan Bin Huang, Sheng Lian, and Biao Huang in an operation that netted a total of 1,021.4 grams worth \$510,000—the biggest "ice" haul in the CNMI so far.

Last February, the federal court sentenced Sheng Lian to 11 years and three months in jail. That same month, the federal court sentenced Yan Bin Huang to 36 months. Biao Huang also pleaded guilty. His sentencing is on June 28, 2010.

CUC's non-technical losses currently at 4 percent

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Besides losses from nonfunctioning water meters, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. also uncovered a significant percentage of what it calls non-technical losses—industry euphemism for theft of electricity or losses due to clerical, accounting, or multiplier errors.

CUC assistant executive director for operation Abe Utu Malae said that CUC currently absorbs non-technical losses of roughly 4 percent, a figure he deems "too high."

Malae declined to specify how much CUC is losing in this area but emphasized the importance of metering as a means to measure consumption as precisely as possible.

"It would be like the 'shrinkage' faced by retail stores. At the end of the day, all customers pay for the shoplifting, say, of a few or errors of the staff," Malae said.

He admitted that some "service thefts" are difficult to

identify as offenders become more creative.

"This is why we also depend on good citizens reporting discrepancies," Malae said. "We have actually had cases where theft of service was reported anonymously and we then fixed the problem."

He said CUC is making an effort to reduce these non-technical losses as much as possible. Consultants for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and CUC are collaborating on a protocol to ferret out losses and eliminate them. Among these protocols are addressing the unmetered customers, inventory of streetlights, and checking compatibility of meters and transformer banks as well as checking meter multipliers in the billing system.

"One of the positive things about having a [Public Utilities Commission] is that it keeps urging the utility to take specific measures to eliminate non-technical losses and reduce technical

losses as well," Malae said.

For CUC, metering is another short- to medium-term solution that has far reaching effects. In water alone, CUC has been losing a significant volume of water production for many years. For every 10 gallons of pumped water, only four to five gallons are being billed while the rest are considered "losses." The "unbilled usage" was a significant factor in CUC's major losses, followed by water leaks.

Next month, the CPUC will hold a hearing to discuss CUC's proposed water rate increase. Other matters that will be tackled are net metering, the CDA Preferred Stock Agreement, renewable portfolio standards, financial audits, and the Agingan Point settlement.

Ex-police official who assaulted DEQ manager gets a day in jail

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former Department of Public Safety official did not contest allegations that he beat up a manager of the Division of Environmental Quality inside the DEQ office in Gualo Rai.

Former deputy director of police Francisco Muna Camacho, 53, entered yesterday a nolo contendere (no contest) plea to allegations he beat up David Rosario on Feb. 11, 2010.

"No contest" refers to a defendant's plea that is substantially but not technically an admission of guilt.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman accepted Camacho's plea and sentenced him to seven days in jail, all suspended except for one day.

Wiseman, however, gave Camacho credit for the one day he had already served in jail. This means Camacho immediately goes free.

The judge placed him on one year of probation and required him to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, and a probation fee.

Wiseman directed Camacho to write a letter of apology to the victim and undergo anger management counseling.

The government had charged Camacho with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace for allegedly beating up Rosario, DEQ's branch manager for wastewater, who sustained injuries on the left side of his body and right side of his face.

Police said it was Rosario who called DPS emergency hotline 911 on Feb. 11 at 1:16pm after Camacho allegedly assaulted him inside his office.

Police's preliminary inves-

tigation showed that Rosario had earlier that day reprimanded one of his employees, Marcia Camacho, regarding work related matters.

Later that afternoon, as Rosario was in his office, he was surprised when somebody punched him on the right face, causing him and his eyeglass to fall to the floor.

As Rosario was about to stand up, he saw it was Marcia Camacho's husband, Francisco Camacho, who had punched him.

As he tried to get up, Camacho held him against the table and continued beating him by punching him on the right side of his face and back.

Rosario pleaded with Camacho to stop, but he continued punching him and asking him what was he doing with his wife.

Marcia Camacho later came inside the office and stopped the fight, according to the police's report.

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CUC extends building lease for three months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña approved a three-month extension of the agency's building lease with the Joeten Group of Companies and dismissed claims that a planned relocation was "politically-motivated."

Muña said the decision for the 90-day lease extension, or until July, was mainly driven by "necessity" and "functionality"

for CUC.

Besides CUC, other government offices occupying the building such as Department of Public Lands had earlier disclosed plans of moving out.

Muña admitted that the plan has been on the table for quite some time but was not immediately acted upon as a result of other pressing matters and issues at the agency.

"With the situation we are in right now, CUC needs to first

stabilize other pressing matters such as cash flow situation, disputes, and issues about the stipulated orders," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that he is not discounting the fact that some cost will still be incurred in the relocation.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC is paying a monthly lease of \$2,100 for all its offices both on the ground floor and third floor of the Joeten Building in Dandan. Its agreement will expire this month

and a three-month extension was approved.

Muña, however, maintained that what CUC needs is a bigger facility that will accommodate training rooms, a conference room, and a records area.

CUC has over 15,000 customers which it bills monthly for their electric, water, and wastewater consumption. Records of all these individuals are stocked everywhere in the current offices it holds in Dandan.

A visit to Muña's office yesterday showed numerous boxes filled with documents and records.

On one occasion, *Saipan Tribune* was also shown the building cracks and damage from previous earthquakes.

"This [office] is reflection of CUC not having the right kind of facility," Muña said, adding that it wants a more accessible, centralized location to serve customers.

"Our intention to move is really driven by necessity... We do have some certain needs to fully perform our function,"

Muña said.

In the three-month extension, Muña said CUC is looking at setting up satellite offices for customers.

"We're looking at that idea so we can better assist all our customers," he said.

Muña revealed that CUC may still consider options that the Joeten Group of Companies may propose after the extension.

CUC once held its offices in the now-abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. But due to the far location, it returned its operations to the Joeten Dandan building.

3 CUC

From Page 1

challenge facing CUC, these big accounts would soon be disconnected from service if payment plans are not immediately made.

"Disconnecting government offices, NMC, and PSS is a real possibility," Muna told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Monday, Muña met with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, the Office of Management and Budget, and the government's Finance chief to inform them of the CUC situation.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC spends \$4 million a month for fuel, or \$1 million for each delivery Mobil makes every week.

Because of the delay in settling these outstanding accounts, Muña said that CUC has been diverting funds intended for its non-fuel payments, just to ensure the continuous delivery of fuel.

CUC accrues an average of \$3 million to \$3.5 million in non-fuel expenses. These include payments to vendors, independent power producers, purchase of lube oil, and other operational expenses.

"We're paying an average of \$4 million a month for fuel and CUC cannot continue to purchase fuel using non-fuel collections because we have other important obligations to our vendors who supply the services

that CUC needs," he said.

Muña pointed out that for every dollar CUC collects, 65 cents is allocated for fuel.

"We already advised the central government that this diversion [of funds] cannot continue anymore. CUC has fallen behind on payments to non-fuel vendors, who have been very considerate and patient thus far with us," Muña said.

As for the \$5 million in CIP money that CUC recently got, Muña said this amount is specifically designed to meet other CUC requirements and cannot be diverted to fuel expenses.

'Beyond payment plan'

Muña, who is the governor's

former OMB chief, said the problem CUC faces with these three clients is not just the payment plan.

"There are two challenges here: addressing what has accrued to date and what to do in subsequent months. It is important that they know how they will pay in the next billing dates such as in June, July, and so forth," Muna explained, adding the need for "legislative cost-savings" to address these outstanding obligations.

Both PSS and NMC depend on local appropriation to pay for utilities.

Saipan Tribune learned that the central government has been paying for its utility billing on a

weekly basis, amounting to 25 percent of what was accrued in the billing period.

Muña said they expect the full payment of the \$1.3 million from the government by end of this month. It would then again start paying 25 percent of the next billing period.

Muña described PSS' obligation as an overdue account that should have been addressed before.

He encouraged both PSS and NMC to explore other ways on how they could address their utility obligations.

The CUC executive director admitted that, with the current situation of the government—counting as it was on the

across-the-board austerity measures that were "killed" by the Senate—PSS and NMC would surely be challenged to resolve this problem.

"This goes beyond the plan...and we need solutions and part of these are cost-saving measures that eventually require legislative action," Muña said, adding that the Legislature should reconsider its position on legislation that would improve government cash flow.

Muña said the same rules are being applied to other independent and autonomous agencies, but he noted that other agencies are working with CUC to resolve their issues.

2 MORE

From Page 1

for the first time in November, and they took office in January, while Torres is one of the longest serving members of the House.

They are only four of the 29 current members of the 17th Legislature—20 at the House of Representatives and nine at the Senate.

A fifth one, Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), has been donating 100 percent of his salary to the Scholarship Office.

Iguel and Torres separately informed the Department of Finance yesterday about their intention to voluntarily reduce their salaries.

Torres's 10 percent pay cut is the same amount he volunteered to cut in 2006 when austerity measures were implemented that year. He was one of only five who volunteered to have pay cuts, out of 27 lawmakers, in 2006.

Torres's salary cut will take effect for pay period # 9, covering April 11 to April 24.

'Not enough'

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said

it's "noble" that some of the lawmakers have come forward to voluntarily reduce their salaries.

"While we welcome the few lawmakers who have joined the governor, lieutenant governor and the excepted service employees of the Executive Branch in making the sacrifice of reduced income, it still doesn't suffice the savings we anticipated by reducing hours of government employees through the original version of HB 17-45," he said.

Demapan was referring to Basa's bill, which would have reduced work hours across-the-board by 10 hours per pay period. Had the bill been passed in its original form, the House Ways and Means Committee expected it to cut government cost by \$4.4 million.

A 12.5-percent voluntary pay cut means that lawmakers' \$39,300 mandated annual salary will be cut by \$4,912.50. With 26 pay periods a year, any lawmaker with a 12.5-percent cut will only be getting some \$1,322 per pay period instead of some \$1,511.

Besides the payroll this Friday, there are at least 12 other pay periods left before the end

of Fiscal Year 2011.

A voluntary pay cut will mean the government can save \$2,268 for each lawmaker. If all the 29

lawmakers get a 12.5-percent pay cut, the government can reduce its payroll cost by \$65,772 between the next payroll and the last payroll before the end of FY 2010.

Lawmakers, however, have not considered implementing the same cuts to the legislative staff.

Yes to salary cut, but only if...

At least five other lawmakers said they are willing to cut their salaries, but this will depend on what the Executive Branch will do in the next few days or weeks. They said despite declining resources, the government continues to hire employees.

Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan) said he is willing to do his share to trim down government spending for the rest of FY 2010 but he would like to do so on the actual date that Executive

Branch government employees will also receive a 10-hour per pay period reduction.

"Right now I play it by the ear... I am going to have my salary cut, but I would first like to see the entire Executive Branch have their salaries cut. There are many directors earning more than \$45,000 a year, way more than what lawmakers earn," he said.

Palacios also said that he would rather hear Rota and Tinian lawmakers voluntarily cut or do away with their monthly subsistence allowance of \$4,200

than have their salaries cut by 12.5 percent. He said "their salaries are lower than their subsistence allowance."

Rep. Ramon "Ray" A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said "maybe" he will have a pay cut, "provided we know how it will be used."

Tebuteb, just like many Republicans in the House, didn't vote for the austerity bill. He said government hiring contin-

ues, defeating the purpose of austerity measure.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) said he is willing to "sacrifice to protect government employees," but only if the Fitial administration really can't pay government employees their salaries for the rest of the current fiscal year.

Cruz said it is not fair for lawmakers to sacrifice their salaries if the Executive Branch continues to hire political supporters who are not essential or critical to running the government.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said he will take a pay cut if there's an austerity legislation passed by the Senate and signed into law.

Manglona said his three legislative initiatives, which passed the Senate on Friday, seek to lift the constitutional protection on the salaries of the governor, lieutenant governor, lawmakers, judges and justices when there are austerity measures applied to other government employees.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said she supports a voluntary pay cut but at this time, she can't take salary cut because she is still paying the

Department of Finance for past travel expenses.

Other lawmakers could not be reached for comments yesterday.

Each lawmaker receives a salary of \$39,300 a year. They also receive over \$100,000 for office operations, and leadership members get extra funds for their respective legislative committees. In addition, senators and House members get a subsistence allowance of up to \$5,000, which they reduced early this year to \$4,200.

Hundreds of contract or excepted service employees in the Executive Branch have already received notices of work hour cuts, which will take effect 30 days after receipt of such notice.

Their work hours will be reduced from 80 to 70 hours per payroll, which is equivalent to 12.5-percent of their salaries.

Employees at the Legislature and the Judiciary are not affected by these work hour cuts.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who continues to have a 10 percent pay cut, revised the projected revenue to \$137 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 and reduced by 7.25 percent the budget authority for agencies.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune, listed what Fitial said were "positive factors" that were "carefully considered" concerning Diaz's request for commutation.

"The applicant has served over eight years in the CNMI correctional facility and has an outstanding record in the

facility including certificates for services involving the July 2008 Liberation Day, archaeological reconnaissance survey training, school bus stop painting in August 2008, road median painting in September 2008, cemetery cleanup project in October/November 2008," Fitial said.

Diaz was sentenced to 25 years without parole and served eight years.

Fitial commuted Diaz's sentence of 25 years imprisonment without parole to 15 years, reducing the sentence by 10 years. The Board of Parole later granted him parole.

The governor said the Department of Corrections and other members of the community supported Diaz's request for commutation of his sentence.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guer-

rero (R-Saipan) submitted a letter of support to Diaz's request while the lawmaker was a member of the 15th Legislature, the governor said in his commutation. Deleon Guerrero declined to comment yesterday.

"The ends of justice are served by granting David Tanaka Diaz an opportunity to continue his path to a successful, law-abiding life," Fitial said in his commutation.

Article III Section 9(c) of the CNMI Constitution and 6 CMC 4251, as amended by Public Law 12-41, vests the governor with the power to grant reprieves, commutation and pardons.

Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama sentenced Diaz to 30 years, all suspended except for 25 years, on Aug. 28, 2002.

The first 25 years of the sen-

tence was to be served without a parole. He was also ordered to undergo drug counseling.

Assistant attorney general Daniel Cohan at the time initially sought a 50-year prison term for Diaz.

In August 2001, police reported that government operatives foiled Diaz's attempted escape. Authorities confiscated from Diaz 212.59 grams of "ice" and 77.28 grams of marijuana.

Lawmaker who underwent 2 surgeries back on Saipan

Rep. Fredrick P. DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) is now back on Saipan after undergoing two surgeries at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Manila, the Philippines.

He is still recovering from his medical treatment but is ready to soon resume his responsibilities as Precinct V lawmaker, his office said yesterday.

In a statement, DeLeon Guerre-

ro extends his sincerest appreciation for the support, understanding, thoughts, and prayers during his absence to undergo medical treatment in the Philippines.

"I am humbled by the support and prayers given to me and my family during the past few weeks. I also want to thank my constituents for their patience and understanding during my absence," he said.

A father of three, DeLeon Guerrero was off island starting on Feb. 22 for medical reasons. After numerous tests, he underwent brain surgery at the base of his skull to correct a very serious trigeminal nerve disorder, followed by another surgical procedure.

In his absence, he solicited his father's help, former senator Herman R. DeLeon Guerrero, to manage the operations of his office, including work on all legislative matters that come across his desk. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

Hotels help NMI offices celebrate Administrative Professionals Day

By CLARISSA DAVID
REPORTER

Hotels are all geared up to pay tribute to the hardworking administrative staff on Saipan as the island observes Administrative Professionals Day today.

Hyatt Loyalty Programs Manager Yulia Camacho said that office personnel are in for a gastronomical treat at Giovanni's Restaurant, with their Italian lunch buffet at \$30 per person. All guests can enter the raffle and have a chance to win a Hyatt getaway package for two that includes one-night accommodation at the Hyatt's executive suite, massage at i Sagua Spa, and dinner at Giovanni's Restaurant.

For Pacific Islands Club, they will have a bottle of champagne and flower candies for all their administrative staff diners at their Magellan Restaurant, according to Food & Beverage administrative assistant Paul Dujua. Local diners can still avail of the 20 percent local rate discount while government employees can

still take advantage of their government rate of \$14 per person.

Piding Sablan, Aqua Resort Club F&B Director of Sales for Local and Corporate Market, said their guests today can enjoy their Sunday Brunch Menu at the Costa Terrace Restaurant, with applicable local rates. ARC will also have a raffle draw, prizes of which include gift certificates from Budget Rent a Car, ARC's Light and Easy and Seafood buffets, and an overnight stay at ARC. All administrative staff guests will receive chocolates and pink roses from ARC.

In 2002, then-governor Juan N. Babauta endorsed April 21-27 as Administrative Professionals Week to recognize all individuals who take on administrative responsibilities and handle and contribute to the operations of public and private offices throughout the Northern Marianas.

Administrative professionals include office clerks, customer service representatives, receptionists, and other office staff.

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² Continental OnePass Debit Card: Open a Continental OnePass Debit Card by April 30, 2010 and receive 1,000 bonus miles upon account opening and receive an additional 1,500 bonus miles with your first purchase within the first 3 months. Offer open to Guam and CNMI residents only. All OnePass program rules and conditions apply, including Continental's right to terminate or modify the OnePass program.

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With no funding yet, Flame Tree Festival pares down this year

By CLARISSA DAVID
REPORTER

Preparations for the Flame Tree Arts Festival are going well as scheduled even though no funding has yet been received by the Council for Arts and Culture, according to CCA executive director Angel Hocog.

"We are on schedule. The

stage has been set up. Now the tents are being set up," said Hocog in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

CCA, which requested a budget of \$55,000 to fund this year's festivities, has yet to get approval for its funding request just two days from the scheduled event, pending submission of reports of accounting expenditures for last

year's \$60,000 budget.

The 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival is scheduled to open on Friday, April 23, and will run until Sunday, April 25.

Hocog said the funding situation did not prevent them from doing what needs to be done for this year's festival. "[The problem on funding] does affect a little bit but it really doesn't

factor that much. We just try to work with the resources and funding that we have."

Hocog added that they solicited contributions from private businesses to augment the meager funds they have. "The [money from the] solicitations will be used to pay for costs to operate the festival like sound system, security, [and the] tents we are renting," he said.

Additionally, the Council also decided to take measures that would cut back on expenses to help them save some cash. "We are cutting costs on things that are nonessential," Hocog said.

Accommodations for the off-

island delegates will be part of these cutbacks. Normally, the budget that CCA receives also covers the accommodation costs for these delegates. This year, the delegates would have to shoulder these costs.

A total of four off-island group delegations are expected to arrive on Thursday morning: two groups from Guam, and one each from Tinian and Rota.

Aside from hotel costs, the hosting of the delegates would also get the ax. CCA used to hire a caterer to welcome off-island delegations. "[This year], we will do it the island way: barbecue chicken, ribs and red

rice," Hocog said.

Flame Tree souvenirs will also be kept to a minimum this year. Hocog stated that in the past, CCA allocated part of its budget for booklets and souvenirs such as planners and t-shirts. "We provided [all those souvenirs] to all performers, artists, and off-island delegates. [We will give] only t-shirts [this time] as a token of appreciation for their contribution," Hocog added.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is the largest annual arts celebration in Micronesia, intended to promote the arts and cultures of various ethnic groups in the Pacific.

Burmese community celebrates New Year festival



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Burmese nationals and friends pose for a group photo during the celebration of Thingyan, more popularly known as the Water Festival, last April 17. Based on the Buddhist lunar calendar, Thingyan is celebrated annually from April 13-18.

About 40 guests joined members of the Burmese community on Saipan to celebrate its New Year Festival last Saturday.

Thingyan, more popularly known as the Water Festival, is based on the Buddhist lunar calendar and is celebrated annually from April 13 to 18, with the actual New Year festivity observed on April 17.

Shwe Zin Win, one of the 15 members of the Burmese community on island, said the Water Festival was called such because of the significance of the water in the whole celebration. "The water symbolizes the clearing up of the old year to welcome the new year."

Besides the water, Burmese nationals also wear something new when they greet the start of the year. "[You want] to start new year with new body, new clothes," Win added.

This is the first time that Burmese nationals on island celebrated the occasion.

The Water Festival served as an opportunity not only to familiarize guests to the culture of the Burmese but also as a venue to develop camaraderie and create new friendships. "We want to introduce our food, our culture; some people also want to know about our politics," Win said. (Clarissa David)

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Nearly 2,000 Korean business travelers visit NMI

Over the last six weeks the Northern Marianas has welcomed nearly 2,000 Korean business travelers, sometimes called MICE travelers—visitors coming to the islands for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, or Exhibitions.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has worked with local tour operators to coordinate corporate travel by several large companies in Seoul and Busan, bringing in 1,950 business-oriented travelers since March 2.

Most of the travelers attended employee training, while a small number came on a consumer rewards trip. Companies arriving via MICE travel packages included R'Chance, KFG, World Total License, Lotte Duty Free Shop, IF, Kumho Life, and Shinhan Life.

"MICE travel has growth potential for the Northern Marianas," said MVA market-



Employees of Kumho Life in Korea hold a company function at Saipan World Resort in the Northern Mariana Islands during their visit on April 8-11, 2010.

ing manager Bruce Bateman. "The MICE market is heavily dependent on a source country's economic health, which is part of the reason we have

been able to attract more tours from Korea as that country's economy recovers from the worldwide recession. We look forward to more of the same as

the year progresses."

The MVA supported the MICE trips with island tours, Korean guidebooks, and welcome leis, and pins. (MVA)

Rota brothers are accepted to the Hawaii Job Corps

Rota brothers Orville and Ignacio Manglona first applied for the Hawaii Job Corps in 2006 through the Workforce Investment Agency.

Lacking their general education, the brothers were looking for a positive change "to enhance our skills in academics, hands on training and to increase our knowledge so we can give back to the community."

While waiting for acceptance into Job Corps, 24-year-old Orville and 22-year-old Ignacio decided to pursue their general education for their high school equivalency diploma by enrolling in the Northern Marianas College's ABE program. The brothers obtained their ABE diploma in 2008.

After the long waiting period for availability of space, WIA received the good news a month ago from Hawaii Job Corps of the brothers' acceptance into the program.



Rota brothers Orville, right, and Ignacio Manglona will be attending the Job Corp Center in Maui studying Culinary Arts.

Planning and constant communications between WIA case manager Frances Torres, Hawaii Job Corps, and Tom Quitugua of the Rota Mayor's Office, who served as WIA's point of contact on Rota, accelerated as the flight departure schedules and remaining documentations for Job Corps entrance were fi-

nalized.

Orville and Ignacio bid farewell to their parents and younger brother, friends, and their island home in the early morning of April 16. "With this rare opportunity, we will work hard to succeed, make our family and island community proud, and be a positive role model to our

younger brother," the said.

Prior to their departure, Orville was employed with the Rota Resort as a tour bus driver, while Ignacio was previously employed as a security guard and was helping with the family farm.

Orville and Ignacio will be attending the Job Corp Center in Maui, studying culinary arts.

WIA, under the Office of the Governor, wishes the brothers much success and extends its appreciation to the Rota Mayor's Office and staff Tom Quitugua for his dedication and assistance to WIA, as well as to Rota Mayor personnel Gavin Mendiola for his help on the day before the brothers scheduled departure.

The CNMI's WIA is the administering agency for WIA USDOL ETA funded programs and also serves as the Job Corps Outreach and Admissions Agency as prescribed under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cancer survivor support meeting today

All cancer survivors are invited to the survivor support meeting scheduled today, April 21, 2010 at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room starting at 6pm. Free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings will be offered, followed by a presentation on meditation and breathing exercises for stress relief and wellness, and then a survivors-only discussion. Survivors who wish to avail of the free screenings are advised not to eat, chew gum, or drink after 12pm today. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tina Sablan at the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org, or call Joanne Ogo at the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (CCA)

No WIC clinic on Rota for two days

This is to inform all Rota WIC participants that there will be no clinic on April 27 & 28, 2010. Clinic staff will be calling you to reschedule appropriately, or you may call us at 664-4084. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. (WIC)

Invitation to an Islandwide Cleanup

In support of April as Environmental Awareness Month, the Division of Environmental Quality would like to invite the community to participate in the Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, April 23, from 2pm to 4pm. The cleanup will consist of picking up trash and debris on various beaches, parks, and streets of Saipan. For more information or to sign up/volunteer, contact DEQ One Start coordinator Jonathon Arriola or Chris Tomokane at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Free film showings at AMP

Four environment-conscious films—all free—will be shown at American Memorial Park this week:

■ *Wall-E*: The story of a robot sent to clean up a devastated earth for the return of humans. Screening date/time: today, April 21; Thursday, April 22, at 10:30am and noon; on Saturday, April 25, at 10:30am and 1pm.

■ *The Lorax*: Based on a story by Dr. Seuss about the destruction a factory can cause. Screening date/time: today, April 21; Thursday, April 22, at 10am and 1pm; on Saturday, April 25, at 3pm and 4pm.

■ *Planet Earth*: A look at environmental conditions around the world. Screening date/time: today, 3pm and 4pm only.

■ *The End of the Line*: A story about the consequences of overfishing. Screening date/time: Thursday, 5:30pm only.

For more information, call Ranger Kelchner at 234-7207 Ext. 2029 or 483-7253, or Lisa Eller of DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)

Kagman High calendar of activities

To all parents/guardians of Kagman High School students:

■ Report Card Day on Thursday, April 22, 2010, from 4pm to 6pm. Half-day schedule for students. Students will be dismissed at 12pm.

■ SAT 10 testing scheduled for April 26-28, 2010. Half-day schedule set for these days. Students will be dismissed at 1pm.

■ Junior Night set for May 11, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm at the KHS Cafeteria.

If you have any questions, call 237-3840, ask for Mr. Cabrera or Mrs. Sablan. (KHS)

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/10 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/8 Thu	4/6 Tue	4/3 Sat	4/16 Fri	4/12 Mon	4/11 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/12 Mon	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	002E	4/17 Sat	4/15 Thu	4/15 Thu	4/13 Tue	4/10 Sat	4/23 Fri	4/19 Mon	4/18 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/19 Mon	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	4/27 Tue
MELL SILOSO	003E	4/24 Sat	4/22 Thu	4/22 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/17 Sat	4/30 Fri	4/26 Mon	4/25 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/26 Mon	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	037E	5/1 Sat	4/29 Thu	4/29 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/24 Sat	5/7 Fri	5/3 Mon	5/2 Sun	4/25 Sun	4/25 Sun	5/3 Mon	5/7 Fri	5/9 Sun	5/11 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	003E	5/8 Sat	5/6 Thu	5/6 Thu	5/4 Tue	5/1 Sat	5/14 Fri	5/10 Mon	5/9 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/10 Mon	5/14 Fri	5/16 Sun	5/18 Tue
MELL SILOSO	004E	5/15 Sat	5/13 Thu	5/13 Thu	5/11 Tue	5/8 Sat	5/21 Fri	5/17 Mon	5/16 Sun	5/9 Sun	5/9 Sun	5/17 Mon	5/21 Fri	5/23 Sun	5/25 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/24 Sat	4/25 Sun	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/28 Wed	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Fri	5/8 Sat	5/13 Thu	6/1 Tue	5/12 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	002E	5/1 Sat	5/2 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue	5/5 Wed	5/7 Fri	5/9 Sun	SKIP	5/14 Fri	5/15 Sat	5/20 Thu	6/8 Tue	5/19 Wed
MELL SILOSO	003E	5/8 Sat	5/9 Sun	5/9 Sun	SKIP	5/12 Wed	5/14 Fri	5/16 Sun	SKIP	5/21 Fri	5/22 Sat	5/27 Thu	6/15 Tue	5/26 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	037E	5/15 Sat	5/16 Sun	5/16 Sun	5/18 Tue	5/19 Wed	5/21 Fri	5/23 Sun	SKIP	5/28 Fri	5/29 Sat	6/3 Thu	6/22 Tue	6/2 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	003E	5/22 Sat	5/23 Sun	5/23 Sun	SKIP	5/26 Wed	5/28 Fri	5/30 Sun	SKIP	6/4 Fri	6/5 Sat	6/10 Thu	6/29 Tue	6/9 Wed
MELL SILOSO	004E	5/29 Sat	5/30 Sun	5/30 Sun	6/1 Tue	6/2 Wed	6/4 Fri	6/6 Sun	SKIP	6/11 Fri	6/12 Sat	6/17 Thu	7/6 Tue	6/16 Wed

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No Citations are issued and No Penalties are proposed. CNMI-OSHA ON-SITE Consultation is a confidential service. What is the catch? The employer must correct all serious hazards by the agreed upon correction date.

Take the first step toward building a long-term cooperative safety and health management in your workplace. For additional information, please contact Mr. Reynaldo DeLeon Guerrero, for information and assistance.

This ad is paid for by U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Bank of Saipan, Mayor's Office major sponsors of 2010 MMAC

Bank of Saipan has donated \$1,000 for the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer, automatically qualifying the company as a "major sponsor" of the 2010 MMAC.

"On behalf of the 2010 MMAC committee we'd like to extend our utmost gratitude and appreciation to the staff and management of Bank of Saipan for their generous support in the fight against cancer," said 2010 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

Joining Bank of Saipan in the "major" sponsorship level is the Saipan Mayor's Office, which will be donating a water buffalo, 10 picnic tables and one serving table for use throughout the night. They will also be providing manpower throughout the event to assist with security, the installation of lighting equipment and other logistical support as needed.

"The Saipan Mayor's Office has been providing assistance to the Marianas March Against Cancer on an annual basis. We would like to thank the honorable mayor Donald Flores and his staff for their untiring support in the fight against cancer," said Concepcion.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 14-15 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

There are 14 teams competing in the largest cancer fundraising event in the CNMI.

One hundred percent of funds raised will be spent locally on cancer patient assistance, cancer awareness programs and other cancer related services.

Raffle tickets and luminaries are being sold for only \$5 each.

"We are inviting the entire island community to a night of great food, live entertainment, fun games and other fundraising activities that all benefit cancer related issues in the CNMI," said Concepcion.

Cancer survivors and patients are invited to the annual dinner held in their honor at the event. All those who register and attend the complementary dinner will be awarded a special medallion commemorating their battle against cancer along with a free T-shirt. To register, contact 2010 MMAC survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or 285-5124 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com.

Title sponsors of the 2010 MMAC are Joeten Charitable Foundation, DFS Saipan, Delta Air Lines, Sorensen Media Group (Power 99/97.9 The Kat/ABC7), Bank of Guam, IT&E and Take Care/FHP. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 21, 1999

Bill levies fee on garment products

A legislative proposal is under way in the House of Representatives seeking to impose a \$1.25 fee on each finished garment product in the CNMI, whose proceeds will be set aside for homestead and public education funds. House Bill 11-362, proposed by Rep. Rosiky Camacho, aims to generate millions of dollars in additional revenues for the financially-troubled government for critical agencies, such as the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College. But the proposal is expected to draw opposition from garment leaders whose heavily-taxed industry has become the steady source of income for the commonwealth when its major tourism economy continues to suffer in the wake of the Asian financial turmoil.

CPA board OKs budget supplement

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has approved a supplemental budget amounting to \$66,264 to carry out capital improvement projects on Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Of this, some \$42,264 will go to the airport while \$24,000 will go to the seaport. This include additional funding for the expansion of West Tinian Airport amounting to \$33,822. The ports authority had earlier approved a total of \$11.10 million budget for fiscal year 1999. This include an appropriation of some \$9.73 million for the airport operation, an 11 percent decline over the previous year. At least 58 percent of the airport budget goes to salaries and wages of personnel. In making the budget, management took into consideration the decline in landings of major carriers, plunge in international flights and decline in tourist arrivals.

April 21, 2000

NMC budget request for FY01 slashed

The Northern Marianas College is faced with another year marred with financial constraints after the Office of Management and Budget slashed its budget request for fiscal year 2001 by \$1.5 million. The OMB has given the college a \$6.8 million budget ceiling for general operations. Majority of the amount will go to teaching and non-teaching personnel cost. The governor's budget office also capped the amount that can be allocated to the college under the Nonresident Workers Fund. Only about 15-20 percent of the total fund, or at least \$1.17 million had been allotted to NMC.

Teno vetoes proposed employment agency for local students

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has thumbed down a proposed employment referral program for local students returning to the CNMI to work as it would only duplicate the functions of an existing agency responsible for finding jobs for resident workers. He also said that existing laws already require employers to give priority to locals in job placements before they can hire nonresident workers to fill up available positions where there are no qualified applicants. While commending its intent, the governor vetoed the proposal contained in House Bill 11-472 partly because it would entail additional costs at a time when the government is observing tight spending measures.

April 21, 2002

DPS jump-starts violent-crime solving

A newly created unit under the Criminal Bureau of Investigation has started reviewing 28 unsolved homicide cases pending in the last 23 years, amid fresh efforts to bring to justice victims of violent crimes. The Department of Public Safety has jump-started the CIB's Homicide Unit, a group whose sole focus will be devoted to solving cold crimes. Acting Police Commissioner Santiago Tudela assigned five police investigators to make up the new unit, headed by veteran police officer Sgt. Joe Aldan, as appointed supervisor. Four more police officers are expected to join the unit.

'Labor system is key vs takeover'

The best way to stave off any attempts at a federal takeover in labor and immigration in the CNMI is to put in place a system that is transparent and efficient, which will inherently be fairer for both the workers the employers. Gov. Juan N. Babauta stressed this point before the audience at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Installation Dinner Saturday night, adding that, by improving the labor and immigration system, Washington will be convinced of the CNMI's capacity to handle such issues by itself. "Through this, we make life easier for the business community, we make life better for nonresident workers, and we reassure the people in Washington who want to take over that there is no need to take over," Babauta said.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CUC'S PROPOSED WATER & WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE



This is a notice of a formal request to increase the rates, fees and/or charges of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), ("rate case"), and of a public hearing related to it. The CNMI Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regulates the CUC pursuant to a recent statute, PL 15-35, as amended. The Commission, based on its most recent rate order, of November 20, 2009, required CUC to file a combined rate case for its services - electricity, water and wastewater - by January 2010.

On January 31, 2010, CUC filed a petition and supporting evidence with the Commission to raise its water and wastewater rates, and some electric fees and charges, as rate case Docket 10-01. On April 1, 2010, CUC filed a supplemental petition and supporting evidence on the same subject.

CUC says it is currently operating at a substantial deficit, cannot borrow money, relies entirely on the revenues from its customers and federal grants, and says that the proposed rate increases are critical in order for the company to maintain financial health. Additionally, CUC is required by statute and a US District Court Stipulated Order to achieve "full cost recovery". This means that CUC's revenues must fully cover the cost of providing service to its ratepayers. CUC's costs include the costs of maintenance, repair, materials and supplies, labor, replacement of water and sewer pipes, pumping and treatment facilities, vehicles, meters and other equipment.

CUC's formal rate case is a combined rate case for all of CUC's services - water, wastewater (or sewage treatment) and electricity. CUC seeks some changes in electric fees and charges, but is not requesting any changes to its base electric rate in this filing. CUC's filing supports a conclusion that the water and wastewater rates have been, and currently are, set substantially below the true cost of service.

CUC says that its rate increase request is primarily due to reasons that are beyond CUC's control, including the above matters and overall rates that have been below cost. CUC seeks to have its rates recognize obligations for CDA preferred stock, a CPA debt, the Agangan Point GPPC construction settlement, and achieving a debt coverage ratio that permits external financing. CUC requests that the Commission adopt two rate increases, one to become effective June 21, 2010, and a second in October 2010. The proposed rate increases, known as Scenario 4, are as follows:

	Current	Effective June 21, 2010	Effective October 2010
WATER Rates			
Monthly Service Fee			
5/8"	\$ 10.86	\$ 11.19	\$ 11.19
1"	12.67	13.05	13.05
1-1/2"	19.91	20.51	20.51
2"	25.34	26.10	26.10
3"	63.35	65.25	65.25
4"	99.55	102.54	102.54
6"	135.75	139.82	139.82
8"	199.10	205.07	205.07
10"	280.55	288.97	288.97
12"	362.00	372.86	372.86
Res/Comm Metered Rate Per 1,000 Gal			
3,001	1.81	1.86	1.86
15,001	4.34	4.47	4.47
30,001	5.43	5.59	5.59
60,001	6.34	6.53	6.53
Above	7.24	7.46	7.46
Res/Comm Flat Rate Per 1,000 Gal			
3,001	0.91	0.94	0.94
15,001	2.17	2.24	2.24
30,001	2.72	2.80	2.80
60,001	3.17	3.27	3.27
Above	3.62	3.73	3.73
Govt Rate Per 1,000 Gal	54.30	55.93	55.93
WASTEWATER Rates			
Monthly Service Fee	8.20	15.99	21.59
Res/Comm Metered Rate Per 1,000 gal	1.37	2.67	3.61
Govt Rate Per 1,000 gal	30.00	59.00	80.00

CUC seeks to change the following fees and charges:

Fee or charge	Current level	Proposed level
1. Meter investigation (elec, water & ww)	\$ - 0	\$40.00
2. Honey wagon dumping	\$ 25.00/load	\$75.00/load
3. Credit card charge limitation	unlimited	\$300 residential limit; \$1,000 commercial limit
4. Credit card charge fee	\$ - 0	Per third party provider & Commission approval

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on May 21, 2010, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the above regulatory matter. The Commission will later conduct a special business meeting, on May 28, 2010, to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. The Commission retains the authority to implement rates and a rate structure the same as that requested by CUC, above that requested by CUC, or below that requested by CUC.

A set of the CUC rate case petitions, and the written testimony and the exhibits, is available for download from the internet: <http://www.baz.net/shared/3uy4hg0bpi>. A written copy is available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Offices: Joeten Dandan Building, 3rd Floor; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office. The hearing will be conducted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office in the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. on May 21, 2010. The Commission will issue a notice that will address how people can submit written or live comments.

NEWS BRIEFS**Child car seat checkpoints today**

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on Saipan today, April 21, 2010.

The first checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, San Jose by the Morgan's Building on the southbound outer lane, from 8am to 9:15am.

The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Piao by Hopwood Jr. High School on the southbound outer lane, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamor or Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. at 664-9085. (DPS)

Boating Safety to conduct boating, sanctuary enforcement tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section, in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be conducting boating and sanctuary enforcement this Thursday, April 22.

The purpose of this enforcement is to ensure boaters and fishermen are in compliance with Boating Safety and Fish & Wildlife regulations.

Boating Safety officers will be boarding vessels to inspect all safety equipments are in good working conditions. Fish & Wildlife officers will also be onboard to enforce all fishing regulations.

On this date, DPS would like to inform all boaters transiting from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to stop by Boating Safety Office at Smiling Cove Marina to submit their Float Plan before they travel.

For any concerns or questions, contact DPS at 664-9022/23. (DPS)

OPA staff on Rota and Tinian end of April

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on April 29 and on Tinian on April 30 to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on April 29. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room from 9am to 4:30pm on April 30.

All filers must bring with them some form of photo ID, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services.

For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (OPA)

APRIL is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

prevent sexual violence...
Time To Speak Out!

Use the power of your voice. Let everyone know that sexual violence of any kind is wrong!

Sexual violence affects every woman, man, and child in the CNMI. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time for us to come together on behalf of victims and survivors to promote healing and justice, and to create a tomorrow free of sexual violence.

**Join us this Wednesday,
April 21st, 2010, 4:00pm-6:00pm,
at Kagman Pathway (Laolao Bay Golf) for
Walk on Wednesday's.**
Visit our Sexual Assault Awareness
Month Information Booth, Get a Free Health
Screening, and Join our Walk to Advocate
Against Sexual Violence.

Help is Available:

VICTIM HOTLINE: 234-5100

Lugat Pas (DVIC): 664-4580/83/84

For Information & Resources:

**Northern Marianas Coalition Against
Domestic & Sexual Violence: 234-3878**



prevent. educate. advocate.

A campaign sponsored by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force

This project was supported by Grant No. 2008-SW-AX-0001 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Pick it up, fill it out, turn it in.

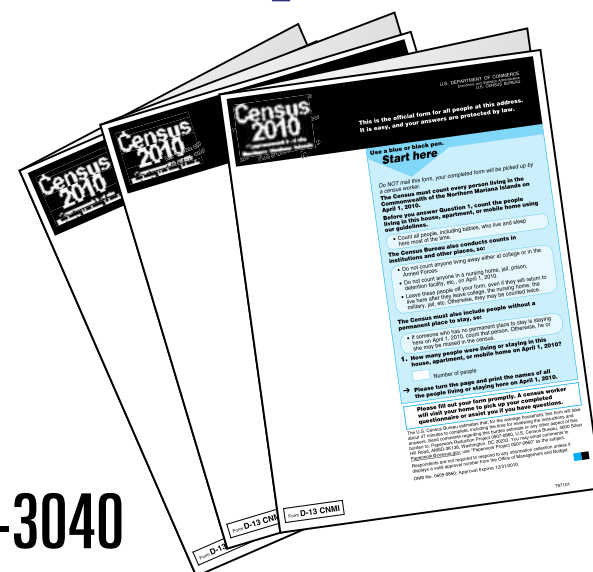


Your **ANSWERS**
are **protected**
by **law.**

IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Census 2010

Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands



For assistance in completing your CNMI Census form, please call 288-3040

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 94Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Arizona's harsh anti-immigration bill goes too far

Last week, Arizona lawmakers passed anti-immigration legislation that is unique in its stringency and harshness. The bill would strongly encourage police officers to engage in racial profiling by ordering them to check the status of people they merely suspect of being in the United States illegally. Even legal immigrants, in a move that harkens back to fascist Europe, would be required to carry their papers at all times or risk arrest.

Apparently Arizona legislators have forgotten Proposition 187, the 1994 California ballot initiative. That measure, popular with a frustrated public but ultimately deemed unconstitutional, would have cut off services, including health care and public education, for illegal immigrants. Arizonans have forgotten the lawsuits, national outrage and political backlash.

Although the California and Arizona measures are different, the frustration with federal apathy that fuels them is the same. Arizona is hostile to illegal immigrants because it is the main point of entry to the U.S. for migrants coming in from Mexico. (Californian hysteria softened after the San Diego border was fortified in 1994 and migration routes shifted to Arizona and Texas.)

Some of the most established trails from Mexico criss-cross private property in Arizona. Homes along these trails are sometimes burgled and vandalized; property is damaged. Some trails are littered with empty water bottles and human waste; trash, diapers, cigarette boxes and discarded backpacks. These are thoroughfares not just for job-seekers but for human traffickers and gun-toting drug smugglers.

The sense of peril at the border has been heightened by the killing last month of Arizona rancher Robert Krentz. Krentz was known for aiding migrants who landed on his property dehydrated, hurt and hungry. Tracks from the scene where he and his dog were shot led back toward Mexico.

But the Arizona bill is not just a reaction to that tragedy; it was in the works well before the killing. Rather, it is the state's way of expressing frustration with the federal government and preparing itself for the comprehensive federal immigration reform residents fear is coming. In the eyes of many Arizonans, any new law granting amnesty to undocumented immigrants will open a floodgate into their backyard.

Arizona's new legislation is terribly wrongheaded, but the state's sense of abandonment by Washington is not something the rest of us can shrug off. Congress must find the courage to create a policy that sensibly regulates the flow of immigration. Arizona ranchers living along the border are fearful for their lives, and migrants are dying in the desert. Inaction penalizes everyone. The solution is not for Arizona to criminalize illegal immigration, which has generally been regarded as a civil violation, or to encourage a culture of civil rights violations and racial profiling. We urge Gov. Jan Brewer not to let these measures become law.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



Saipan: Then and now

A different time and place

Editor's Note: The Saipan Tribune presents the notes and recollections of an island chronicler who looks back at the Northern Marianas to a distant, simpler time dating from the 1970's. Recorded by Bill Stewart, a frequent contributor to this paper's Opinion section, his personal snapshots recall several experiences and events that occurred about 40 years ago during the Trust Territory period and later as remembered and recorded in his personal journal. Portions of the article first appeared in MP Magazine.

Third part of a series

To even think of a tourism-based economy in 1970 was an unimaginable dream since the Japanese could only convert yen to its equivalent of \$743. A round-trip ticket to Guam purchased at the Pan American Airline office, or from Continental Air Micronesia, was \$28. Those were the days when there was only one flight a day and one cargo ship a month. The population of Saipan, Tinian and Rota combined was 12,256, including the employees of the Trust Territory Government, the islands' major employer.

The purchasing power of the dollar at the time would be equal to a little less than 15 cents today. The 2,376 registered vehicle owners, including those of the Trust Territory and district governments, purchased gasoline for 38 cents a gallon; rice was 13 cents per pound; sugar 12 cents and a can of corned beef sold for 75 cents. There were 55 businesses in the Northern Marianas employing 673 people. The total annual government revenue was only \$433,334 and the islands' exports amounted to a measly \$254,635.

There was no private sector economy worth mentioning, no tourism, no garment factories, only government jobs for the most part. Watergate had not yet consumed America and it was the year four students were killed at Kent State University. Personal computers, cell phones, fax machines and the Internet were unheard of and slide rules were still widely used as were teletype machines with their perforated paper ribbon. Coaxial cable made Walter Cronkite's CBS News available but was usually 10 days late in reaching Saipan. The world could have ended and we wouldn't have known it for more than a week from the black and white telecasts originating from WSZE TV, the small television station on Navy Hill that glowed to life about 6pm and went off the air around midnight or earlier to the sound of the National Anthem.

Mail from the U.S. East Coast took 10 or 12 days—some things never change. Doctor Torres hospital was located where the college is today. Capitol Hill Housing built by the CIA was the best on the island. The single Duty Free Store was housed in the Royal Taga Hotel and was no larger than a row of telephone booths, 10 people in the shop made a crowd. The number of island restaurants could

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.



be counted on one hand.

I recall running the island's single stop sign and was ticketed by the police after being read my Miranda rights. Appearing in court the next day the judge asked for my plea, "Guilty, your honor," I replied. At the sound of a gavel, he said, "I fine you \$3." Then the judge leaned over the bench and asked in a very compassionate and soft whisper, "Do you have \$3?" I am certain if I had replied, "No, sir, I only have \$2," the fine would have been reduced to that amount. There was very little money available on Saipan at the time. Nor was there much crime in those days, usually only rocks being reported thrown at someone's tin roof.

One had to be very careful exploring caves and "boonies" and walking along the beach, as unexploded hand grenades, cartridges and live ordnance of all type were littered about. Several people were killed when their souvenir hunting curiosity got the better of them. It is still dangerous to handle such finds. I still get a little nervous when I pass a ditch digging machine along the road thinking it will "chew" into an unexploded 16-inch naval shell and blow me to glory. At the time one could walk along the beach and find bone fragments of some fallen soldier and, when snorkeling, observe the floor of the lagoon littered with the weapons of war.

Japanese "bone collectors" returned frequently to recover the remains of their fallen comrades for cremation ceremonies at Marpi and honorable burial rites at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo.

■ ■ ■

Errata

An error was pointed out in the series now appearing in the paper titled "Saipan Then and Now," part 2. In the interest of historical accuracy I was corrected that the dog mentioned in the article that met every Air Mike jet arriving at Saipan International Airport was not "Pilot" but "Airport."

So "Airport," wherever you are, my apology with thanks to Jerry Facey and his wife Irene who was a Continental Airline stewardess and knows the story of "Airport" very well and probably fed him on many occasions.

In telling old tales of Saipan one must be careful of the facts.

To be continued.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Natural drag and the art of flying high

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Hiya Walt,

I have nearly finished my first read of your passion for profit book. I thank you for your support as I begin my journey. I must say you have certainly packed the book full of great ideas. It has taken me a month to read and digest each part of your book, which is unusual as I normally read a book in 4-5 days! I was really helped by your comments that it will take time, that I may struggle at the beginning and that I may get pushed back on many occasions. I have done my draft business plan, made mock up brochures, made a draft Web site, I'm collecting ideas to design my products. I wanted to be slightly risqué and thought, "oh I'd better not," but after studying some of Richard Branson's quotes, I now think I'll stick to my original ideas! Thanks again!—Nila

Hi Nila,

Thanks so much for the great feedback. Speaking of being "thrown back on occasion," consider the following:

There are basic laws of the universe that apply to every thing and every one. One such law is, "For each and every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." Let me give you a practical and current example of this.

Recently, you may have heard the news that air traffic across Europe has been grounded due to the danger of flying jet-engine planes through the airborne ash from the eruption of the volcano Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland. In a recent interview, an expert was asked why the planes couldn't simply fly above, below, or

around the clouds of ash. He explained that flying a jet plane below the level where the cloud of ash has been detected—at 8,000-10,000 feet—was not an option since the "drag" (the air resistance) on the body of the plane is so tremendous at that low altitude as to make fuel efficiency and air travel impractical. Jet planes fly best in the thinner atmosphere of higher altitudes. [If you're interested, the other reasons include that the ash is practically undetectable by the naked eye to fly around, and flying above the invisible cloud of ash would require the equally risky option of ascending and descending through it.]

What a great metaphor! So, let's fly with it!

As you go through the process of turning your passion into profit, the resistance you will encounter will take many forms. It may appear that people are jealous. It may appear that people are sabotaging your progress and success. Some will promise and not deliver. Others may deliver, but drag their heels when they do. It may, at times, appear to be an intricately interwoven, global conspiracy designed to keep you down and push you back!

On those occasions, it may help to remember that such resistance is actually a natural part of the process, or, more accurately, part of a natural process.

Just like a jet plane attempting to fly to its destination, the forward motion toward your goal of creating a passion-centered life and business is going to be resisted by those whose sole purpose, it seems, is to provide the "drag" of lower atmosphere. The thoughts, expectations, habits and behavior that exist in the lower atmosphere are not vindictively aimed at you, they are simply part of what is. They can't help it. It's natural law.

Fortunately, unlike the rigid, limited, easily-clogged metal engine parts, YOU need not be grounded by such resistance. To overcome, get beyond and transcend the invisible ash that often permeates the atmosphere of your life (in the form of your own thoughts and the expectations of others), you can simply choose to think, speak and act on a higher plane (no pun intended). In other words, fly above the fray (and the fjords)!

The lower your aspirations, thoughts and behavior, the "closer to

"think globally, act locally," using it officially at the UNESCO Conference on the Environment 1972. E. F. Schumacher of *Small is Beautiful* fame, geodesic designer Buckminster Fuller, the educators Elise and Kenneth Boulding, popularized the phrase until it reached bumper sticker status at the Vancouver UN Human Habitation (Habitat) Conference of 1976. The rest is history. (Even real estate rentals now use the phrase!)

The term *glocalization* is a translation of the Japanese business practice of *dochakuka*, which simply means global localization. In the late '80s, the term *glocal* was used as a technical network interchange term between the global and the local; it has broadened its usage since. I started using the term at the turn of the century in ecological discussions on globalization. The *Saipan Tribune* allowed it in print for the first time three years ago.

Obama's spirit in my view is about going glocal. Globality is the overarching context, local community participation is the act. Senator Obama in 2008 campaigned to recapture in Washington, Wall Street and across the country the spirit of unity and urgency exhibited by the students in the teach-ins of 1970, saving the planet for the children, and fulfilling the obligation to be good stewards of the natural order (he used the phrase, God's creation).

Earth Day in his first year in office, Obama acknowledge the environment's central role in the development of the country and the ecological interdependence among nations. "History has shown that as we sow, so too shall we reap," he echoed the voice of his religious tradition. He added: "Let us rededicate ourselves to a world that provides bountiful harvests for us all not just today, but for many generations to come."

His resolve to keep an environmentally friendly and sustainable economy got tested this year, though still without hesitation and in firm resolve, he articulated a new energy policy: "Given our energy needs, in order to sustain economic growth and produce jobs, and keep our businesses competitive, we are going to need to harness traditional sources of fuel even as we ramp up production of new sources of renewable, homegrown energy... So today we're announcing the expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration, but in ways that balance the need to harness domestic energy resources

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

the ground" you will be flying, and thus, the more drag and push back you will encounter.

Honor your original creative ideas, Nila. Stick to your original plans. Stick to the dream that originally inspired you to action. Think big. Fly high. The atmosphere above the clouds is more conducive to speedy and fulfilling travel...and the view is much better, too!

You are now free to roam about the cabin!

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the books, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may order on Amazon.com or, on island at Fu Dogs & Qi on the first floor of the Nauru (360) Building.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

Obama on Earth Day

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. The quote appears like it is something our writer politician and current White House occupant Barack Obama could have written or said. It isn't. His fellow Nobel Laureate, Bengali Rabindranath Tagore, and India's preeminent pre-Independence poet, did.

But Obama remains what he was already touted when campaigning for the presidency, the Community Organizer in Chief. Upon his election, the Obama-Biden transition team urged community service from everyone in their first 100 days in office, making that an official encouragement to students in their Summer '09.

Having grown up with parents whose priority was not high on their children's ability to pay for a mortgage and secure a pension, not in the skill of making a living but on the art of living a life, Obama's programmatic push to JFK's "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man (sic)" resonates. Obama's spirit slips out and through on Earth Day.

But first, a few words about the day. Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson started America's Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Newspaper publisher John McConnell proposed a global Earth Day holiday at the UNESCO Conference on the Environment in 1969. McConnell suggested an annual observance on the vernal equinox (always March 20 or 21)—the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere, the first day of autumn in the southern hemisphere—when the planet is at an equilibrium.

Senator Nelson saw pictures of the 1970 San Francisco international celebration and proceeded to organize a student teach-in on the environment for the United States on April 22, 1970. He also wanted to show his colleagues that the environment is an agenda in American politics. In March 1971, the United Nations made the vernal equinox observance official. That April 22, 1970, the U.S. event was so successful, engaging 200 million people around the world, that it quickly evolved as the Global Earth Day.

About the same time, U.N. adviser René Dubos coined the phrase

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

and the need to protect America's natural resources."

Coming in the heels of the historic passage of the Health Care Reform Act, this could very well be the result of a *quid pro quo* (something for something) of some of the votes needed to pass the law. It means that the Obama spirit does operate on what the media refers to as Obama's pragmatism and realism. In the martyred Bonhoeffer's ethical terms, that would be "observe and judge the given facts, weigh up the values, decide and act." At issue is the freedom to decide. Anxious in making the right choice is not the focus; making a choice and being accountable to the decisions one make, is. Obama practices in this sense what is referred to as contextual ethics.

Now, back to Tagore's insight. *I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.* In the current ethos of 'should-ing' each other, joyful service and/or service as joy are meant here more than just being someone who does something with joy. It is the understanding that to be of service is what being human is all about. Life is about expenditure of one's being; to put the Cartesian formula on its head: *I serve, therefore, I am.*

Thus, it is no wonder that Obama persists in calling himself a Christian, for at the core of that tradition, is the understanding that "no person is greater than this, that s/he gives one's life for the sake of another." Expenditure is one's *raison d'être*, and as business people are wont to say, unutilized assets devalue in real terms when not expended.

Pragmatic and realistic caring for the planet is the spiritual exercise of our time.

Letter to the Editor

I understand that the main sticking point in the austerity bill is the cut in hours for the PSS, which may or will affect federally funded programs and the education of our students. Another area that will be affected will be the lowest paid personnel. Perhaps an alternative solution will be a graduated reduction in salary starting at \$18,000 and up.

An alternative solution: Graduated salary cuts

For example \$20,000 to \$24,999 will have a 10 percent reduction in salary, \$25,000 to \$29,999 will have an 11 percent reduction in salary and \$30,000 to \$39,000 will have a 12 percent reduction, etc. I believe this idea can be workable as those who have a larger salary can afford to sacrifice some while those in the lower end should not be affected.






We should also understand the needs of the PSS. Anyway, we need to settle this issue and move forward.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo I, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼81
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼81
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼81

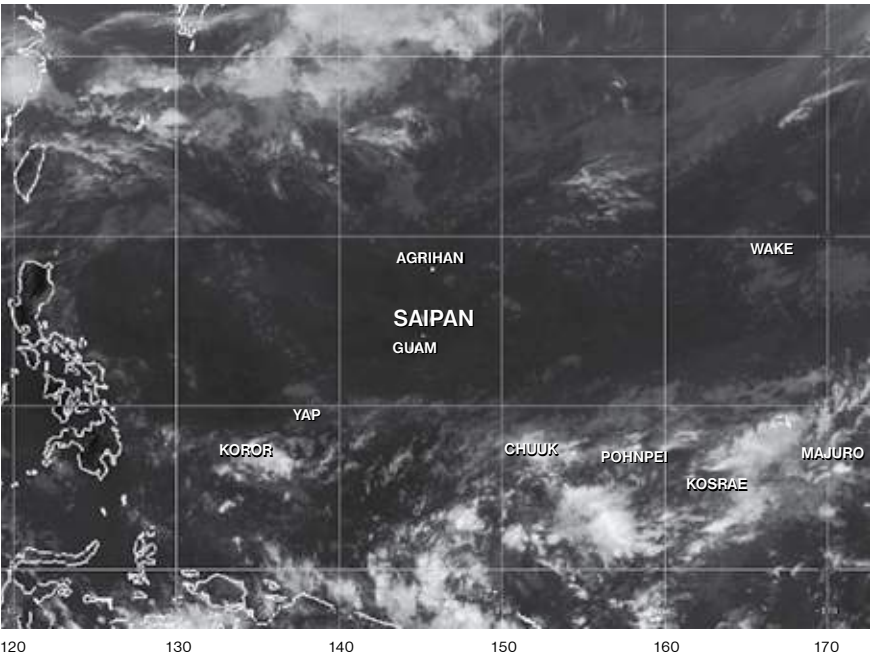
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲65 ▼60
Beijing	Showers	▲53 ▼47
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼39
Los Angeles	Showers	▲62 ▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲94 ▼83
Melbourne	Showers	▲77 ▼62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼66
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼48
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼53
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲62 ▼40
Pusan	Showers	▲59 ▼49
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼50
Salem	Rain	▲54 ▼43
San Francisco	Showers	▲56 ▼48
Seoul	Showers	▲61 ▼49
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲69 ▼53
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼48

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:10 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weakening shear line extends southwestward from 25N164E to 21N145E. Clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. Convergent low-level winds are combining with upper-level divergence to cause scattered showers over Koror within 60 miles of a line from 8N130E to 6N138E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 152E to 158E. Scattered showers are also found over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 6N and 9N from 150E to 162E. A surface trough is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae and southwest of Kwajalein within 60 miles of a line from 8N167E to 6N165E to 3N165E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:31 AM
Thursday	12:31 PM 12:45 AM
Friday	1:31 PM 1:33 AM
Saturday	2:29 PM 2:18 AM
Sunday	3:26 PM 3:01 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
 - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:10am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ606/703 2:20am 11:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/703 2:50am 11:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ608/705 3:20am 12:10am+1 1, 5 via PUS C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ706/607 3:35am 2:20am+1 4, 7 via PUS C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ606/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 4, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05am 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/605 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Must return to basics!

Whenever we hit the treacherous seas of real scarcity, we ponder what quick fixes could be placed on the table that resembles the single magical pill that cures all. This isn't the first time that we've met in the venue of hopelessness.

Casino gambling is usually the quickest answer and mouthwash among peddlers of an industry where the only thing certain is uncertainty.

Indeed, we have moved so far away from what was once an agrarian community when life was simple from dawn to dusk. We've morphed into the money economy and life was never the same again.

Yet there lurks in the back of my mind what we've opted to ignore: the issue of investing in our own people, i.e., farmers, fishermen, and future entrepreneurs from among students now matriculated at NMC, ready to explore the world.

Indeed, we've invested in the education of our young minds, but have we come up with follow-up programs to bring this issue full circle? Or is it more a case of "sink or swim" after graduation from college? I mean, other than vacuous speeches, what else have we done up this alley?

This needs revisiting on a serious basis. It requires the long thoughtful process of self-definition. Unless we can get together to synergistically map out various options on investments, nothing else moves beyond long yawns and siestas after some heavy bone soup for lunch. Call it a conundrum!

Perhaps the habitual and redundant use of the term "address" must be dropped and replaced with the word "resolve" just to prevent it from turning into a working vocabulary that subsequently translates into an attitude of complacency and apathy. Or have we

suffered from intellectual atrophy as to lose all sense of diligence on simple issues that present themselves as workable paradigms?

■ ■ ■

Stipend & New Taxes

My buddy Magoo is miffed that I was a bit too crusty on lawmakers' monthly stipend of \$4,200 for the Senate and \$5,500 for some members of the House of Representatives, respectively.

He said that it is perfectly fine for lawmakers to keep their loot, but must approve the latter amount (\$5,000) for ALL taxpayers! It would keep his fast fading purchasing power intact in these bad economic times. Fair is fair, di ba? And he would join lawmakers cut a grin on his face when he goes shopping with them.

The new increase in sin taxes isn't going to do any good. It simply passes additional costs to consumers. And when push comes to shove, most consumers would find alternatives (including none) to forego expensive beer, liquor and cigarettes. And we'd all be searching to join the PX-Connection! Some may even go to Guam and load up these items into containers and ship home.

It appears like an option but more problematic as consumers shy away from items where taxes have gone meteoric. Let's see if the so-called "projection" is a realistic alternative. A projection is basically an assumption of possible tax collection where nothing is guaranteed until you review actual collection at year's end.

Interesting though the interminable see-saw debate that simply doesn't provide concrete answers. Interesting too the persistent negligence when it comes to private sector employees whose fate are often ignored, though the pain is the same. Why is this the case?

■ ■ ■

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is the secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Those Days Are Gone!

There was a time when I'd drive to San Antonio ready to see factory workers rush out of the gate and stop by vegetable trucks on their way home. It usually prompts real slow driving. Those days are gone!

The large buildings are empty, including the front side where Chinese farmers once lined up along the road to sell their produce to workers before sunset.

Sad that even private properties rented for small restaurants and markets have also put on shutters, permanently.

What was once a beehive of activities has turned into deafening silence or ghost town. Landlords no longer collect once healthy sum for lease of their properties. Farmers have lost out completely on a lucrative market.

Too, all workers have gone home to China, the Philippines and Thailand. The consequence of economic devastation is shocking for these isles that once watched as the industry rakes in \$1.2 billion annually.

There's nothing left except empty barracks and warehouses, not to mention the consequence of empty local coffers. I never knew it could be ghostly towns in paradise. A' Saina!

Letters to the Editor

The eventual loss of our right to own land

I was privileged to attend the "Up Close Initiative" sponsored by the Public School System on Friday, April 16, at the Saipan World Resort. The featured topic was Article XII of our Constitution. There were eight speakers, four in favor of retaining Article XII and another four speakers who favor the repealing Article XII.

After listening to both sides of the argument, I began thinking about some of the statements made and questions that arose during the deliberation. It was clear to me that the speakers favoring the retention of Article XII were concerned that if Article XII were to be repealed, we will lose the most dear and precious asset that we have—land.

Opinions were also expressed that if we repeal Article XII, we will eventually be without land and will have nothing left to give to our future generations. Here are some of the reasons given as to why Article XII must not be repealed:

- We will lose our culture;
- Our island is too small and if we sell it, we have nothing to pass down to our next generation.
- We will be exploited by outsiders.
- The hotels are still operating even when the economy is low, so keep Article XII.

The following are my thoughts in addressing the four points stated above. Please bear with me and read on as I believe you will have a better understanding of the situation at hand:

A. I looked up the meaning of the word "culture" in the Oxford dictionary. It means (1) *the art and other manifestation of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively*. (2) *the customs, civilization, and achievements of a particular time or people*. I fail to see how one would lose his or her culture. While I agree that we should retain some of our culture, we can still do anything with our land (keep it, sell it, lease it or give it away) and still have our culture.

While we are discussing "culture," let us dwell further into it.

1. "Respect" is a phenomenon in our culture. Nothing should prevent a person from practicing his or her culture even if that person owns no land. There are hundreds of families who have been waiting for decades to get homestead land but are presently landless. Does that mean they could not practice the Chamorro or Carolinian culture because they do not own land?

The fighting in our government

I still can't believe the unprofessional attitude our officials are displaying in the people's office, fighting like cats, dogs, and rats over taxpayers' money. While people are struggling and suffering to pay their bills or put food on the table, here they are fighting for money in our Legislature. How greedy can they be to fight over taxpayers' money? This is total disregard of protecting our public funds and federal funds. I mean, who in the right mind would let his people suffer and struggle year after year? These public officials couldn't care less because they are living a better life, while the poor are struggling and suffering.

These kinds of negative behavior explain why our government officials cannot do the jobs they got hired to do because of their

2. The "kustumbren" Chamorro is to give a substantially larger tract of land to the youngest son in the family, and convey no land to female children. The explanation given was that the female children will eventually marry and their husbands are responsible to accommodate their land needs. I understand this to be one our cultural heritage. This cultural phenomenon should be re-examined. Although the owner has the right to do whatever he wants to do with his land, I don't think it is not fair that female children would be bypassed in landownership.

3. The Carolinians have a custom where the land remains in the name of the original owner and all the offspring would only have "use right." If the Carolinians want to keep this system as part of their culture, it might be okay but in this modern days and age, we might want to revisit the practicality of such a custom/culture. Problems occurred when the Micronesian Claims Commission was paying the claims for war damages and the Commission was unable to pay the rightful landowner because he was no longer living. The living children and grandchildren ended up going to court for legal determination on how the money was to split among the living. Do we really want to continue to exist under these consequential circumstances?

B. No one will unduly take advantage of you unless you allow them to do so. I am aware of a situation where a person was so desperately in need of money and had to sell his/her land far below the marketable value of the land. We can only assume that the land was purchased by NMD since "outsiders cannot buy and own land." Who is "exploiting" who in this case?

C. CCART-XII group takes the position that, first off, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LEASE OR SELL YOUR LAND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. If, however, you are interested in either leasing or selling your land and an "outsider" is involved in the transaction, I suggest you get someone who is knowledgeable in land transaction and get him on your side to protect your interest if you are not sure of yourself. Alternatively, get yourself a lawyer. Have your land appraised by a certified, licensed land appraiser. The only person that you need to satisfy is "Y-O-U."

D. The hotel owners in the CNMI have invested millions of dollars in these hotels. Most of the hotels are on public lands. The

love of money. Instead of working together to help our suffering people, they instead want to fight about money. Instead of working together to create jobs for our people, they would rather fight like cats, dogs, and rats because they think they're entitled to more money. Our leaders can do better than this.

In these hard financial times our leaders need to plan and organize all resources effectively to overcome the difficulties and challenges we face today. They have to put politics aside and start taking positive actions to create the results our people expect them to do, so our people can live in better conditions. They need to get their acts together and do their jobs to improve, advance, and upgrade our living conditions. They need to get realistic and find

government receives substantial annual rent that goes into the Public Land Trust account. In the early days of our economic development we were fortunate that investors favored investing in the CNMI to enhance our economy. The CNMI was actively competing in the world tourism market. The investors saw the opportunity and took advantage of it. With the ever changing tourism economy worldwide, the CNMI is becoming an unattractive place to invest. The hotels on Saipan are experiencing low occupancy rates. The airlines like Continental are no longer attracted to the CNMI. Other airlines presently serving Saipan provide erratic air services.

The hotels that were constructed in the early '70s are extremely reluctant to make further investments or any major renovation in their hotels since the leases will soon expire and the needed investment to "spruce up" the hotels is prohibitive.

Prospective investors that have considered investing in the CNMI have essentially found Guam to be more attractive since they can purchase land, invest in millions of dollars and are comfortable pouring money into their investment because they own the land. Will we see investors pouring money into the CNMI? Maybe but few and far between.

Here is what I understand is the position of the Citizens For Change In Article XII (CCART-12). We want to abolish/repeal Article XII because it is destructive to every person living in this Commonwealth. The blood quantum is going to touch everyone on these islands. As members of your family marry someone who do not qualify as NMD, *that person will eventually lose the right to own the land his or her parents and forefathers have handed down through generations.*

Some of our high school graduates will seek higher education and would probably go to the U.S. mainland. Some will probably marry someone (non-NMD) they will meet while attending postsecondary educational institutions. Their children will start the process of losing their right to land intended for them to own. We are not telling you what to do with your land. You can keep it, sell it, lease it, give it away. *But* please think what is going to happen when your future generations are no longer qualified as NMD.

If Article XII of our Constitution is not repealed, we will all eventually lose our *right* to own and reign over our own private land. Don't take my word for it...get a copy of the CNMI Constitution and read the sections in Article XII.

David Mangarero Sablan

Papago, Saipan

realistic solutions to solve our people's sufferings so our people can have better life. Our leaders need to come together and cooperate in respecting each other decisions and work on their joint decisions so they can move our economy in the right direction. We don't want our leaders to fail our people's need in these economic hard times because we know they can do better than fight among themselves. Hopefully they will learn to use their minds and learn how to run their brains effectively where it benefits them and our people.

Jack Olopai Romolor

Portland, Oregon

Sablan hosts Trieste commemoration in DC



U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan presents Capt. Don Walsh, USN Ret., with House Resolution 1027, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the *Trieste* dive on Jan. 23, 1960. Sablan authored the resolution, which passed the House on March 19 of this year. The presentation took place during a reception for Walsh at the House Natural Resources Committee rooms.



Marie-Laure Piccard and Thierry Piccard, representing their late father Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard, and Capt. Don Walsh, USN Ret., were guests of U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) at a reception on Capitol Hill last week. The reception was one in a series of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the dive of the bathyscaphe *Trieste* into the Challenger Deep of the Mariana Trench.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dive of the bathyscaphe *Trieste* into the Mariana Trench, the world's deepest ocean, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) hosted Captain Don Walsh, the surviving member of the crew, and two of the children of Jacques Piccard, the other crewmember, at events in Washington last week.

Among the sponsors for the events—which included a reception on Capitol Hill, press briefings at the National Press Club and the U.S. Navy Yard where the *Trieste* is preserved, a dinner at the National Geographic Society, and a reception at the Sant Ocean Hall of the Natural History Museum—were the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Rolex, the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, and National Geographic. (PR)

Artistic Discovery competition deadline is Friday

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is reminding high school students in the Northern Marianas

that the deadline to submit artwork for the 2010 Artistic Discovery Congressional Art Competition is this Friday, April 23, 2010.

The winning piece from the Northern Marianas will be displayed for a year alongside art from around the country at the

U.S. Capitol, where members of Congress, staff, and visitors will see it every day.

Entries should be delivered

to the Congressional Office on Saipan at JCT II Building, Susupe, open weekdays from 8am to 5pm. Entries may also be mailed to P.O. Box 504879 Saipan, MP 96950.

Any questions concerning the

competition can be sent to Michelle Tenorio at michelle.tenorio@mail.house.gov. Or call the congressman's office toll free at (877)-446-3465.

The winning entry will be announced by May 24, 2010. (PR)

\$23K grant for Palau's OPA approved

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta approved yesterday a Technical

Assistance grant in the amount of \$23,000 to the Republic of Palau's Office of the Public Auditor.

Funds will be used to secure

needed technology equipment, services and softwares for investigator and auditor staff to enable the continuation of qual-

ity and timely investigative and audit activities for both local and Federal funding. The purchasing of this equipment is expected to improve OPAs capacity to ensure that Palau assets are safeguarded, records are reliable, reports on operations are sufficient and fairly presented, fraud, waste and abuse are deterred,

and activities are conducted efficiently and effectively.

"The people of Palau rely on OPA to serve as their guardian to ensure the effective and efficient administration and management of public funds and programs. Our objective is to promote improvement, so that the people of Palau benefit from accountable,

well-managed public services that offer the best possible value for money," said Babauta.

"Improving and strengthening the OPAs ability to carry out its mission is essential to providing reasonable assurance that the government remains accountable to its citizens," he added. (OLA)



Request for Proposals Humanities Half-Hour Radio Program

The NMI Council for the Humanities ("Council") requires the services of an independent contractor ("Contractor") to develop and operate its weekly "Humanities Half-Hour" Radio Program ("Program").

Major Tasks to be performed by Contractor:

- (1). Develop, in consultation with Council staff, content for the Council's weekly Program. Content will consist of fifty-two (52) segments, each thirty (30) minutes in length to be broadcast on a local FM radio station. Content will include a variety of humanities-related topics which may be either live or pre-recorded. Content normally will be developed one month in advance so that details about upcoming Program segments may be announced to the public.
- (2). Coordinate with guests to ensure their participation in the Program.
- (3). Pre-record content and edit pre-existing content (digital sound files) utilizing the radio station's equipment, as may be required by Council.
- (4). Host the Program.
- (5). Prepare a brief written report at the conclusion of the contract presenting a summary of work completed and recommendations about how to improve the Program.

Qualifications

Applicants must be knowledgeable about local cultures, history and current events, and possess previous radio production experience. A working knowledge of the Council and its programs is desirable.

Proposal Submission and Evaluation

Proposals should include the applicant's qualifications, statement of approach, and a fee proposal. Proposals should be directed to Scott Russell, Executive Director, N.M.I. Council for the Humanities, Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 or hand delivered to the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan. Proposals must be received by the Council no later than 4:30 pm on 30 April 2010. Selection will be based on (1). qualifications; (2). appropriateness of approach; and (3). cost. Interested individuals are invited contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional project details.

DEBATING CHAMPS



The NMI Council for the Humanities presents the perpetual trophy to the winners of the 8th Annual Covenant Day Debate, Marianas Baptist Academy, which won in the Junior Division. From left, Council executive director Scott Russell, debater Hye Young Oh, coach Lorna Liban and MBA principal Ramiro Trinidad. The Covenant Day Debate is sponsored annually by the NMI Council for the Humanities to introduce students to covenant-related issues affecting life in the CNMI.



The NMI Council for the Humanities presents the perpetual trophy to the Senior Division winners of the 8th Annual Covenant Day Debate, Saipan International School. From left, Council executive director Scott Russell, coach Keith Tessen, debater Amber Roberts, and SIS principal Dr. Dale Jenkins. The school will keep the trophies until next year's competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motors sponsors hole-in-one prize for golf tourney



NMC
Matt Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors, left, opens the door to a brand new 2010 Kia Rio for Ivan Quichocho, a member of the Northern Marianas College Foundation. The vehicle will be used as a hole-in-one prize sponsored by Joeten Motors for the upcoming 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open slated for April 24 at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort.

In support of higher education in the CNMI, Joeten Motors recently committed to becoming a hole-in-one prize sponsor for the upcoming 8th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010. The sponsorship will allow golf participants a chance to win a brand new 2010 Kia Rio sedan.

"We are happy to assist the NMC Foundation's efforts in raising funds for higher education in the CNMI," said Matt Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors. "The staff and management of Joeten Motors are excited about participating as a hole-in-one prize sponsor."

The prize sponsorship was presented in support of the upcoming 8th Annual Golf Foundation Open golf tournament, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"We are thankful to Joeten Motors for their support of the NMC Foundation's golf tournament," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The company's prize sponsorship will undoubtedly entice golfers to participate in the event." **(NMC)**

REGISTRATION INFO

Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort will host the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Show time is 6am; shotgun start is 7am. Registration fee is \$95.

Players are urged to register as soon as possible for Flights A, B, C, Championship, Ladies, or

Seniors. Registration forms may be picked up at Triple J Motors, the NMC Cashier's window, and the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Forms may also be downloaded by visiting www.nmcnet.edu. For more information, contact 234-5498 Ext. 1050. **(NMC)**



NMC
Bank of Hawaii recently committed to sponsoring a \$25,000 hole-in-one prize during the upcoming 8th Annual NMC Open golf tournament scheduled for April 24 at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort. From left to right, NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president John Sheather, and Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president Lisa San Nicolas.

...as did Bank of Hawaii with \$25K

To assist the Northern Marianas College Foundation raise funds at its upcoming fundraising golf tournament set for April 24, Bank of Hawaii recently became a major sponsor of a \$25,000 hole in one prize.

"Our company is a strong supporter of the NMC Foundation's efforts," said BOH senior vice president John Sheather. "The staff and management of Bank of Hawaii are happy to be a part the upcoming golf tournament."

The prize sponsorship was presented in support of the upcoming 8th Annual Golf Foundation Open golf tournament, organized by the NMC

Foundation.

"We would like to thank Bank of Hawaii for its sponsorship," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The company's participation in this golf tournament will help the NMC Foundation's efforts in raising funds for higher education."

"We are grateful for Bank of Hawaii's commitment to sponsoring the upcoming golf tournament," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "The bank's involvement and support will help raise funds for NMC's programs and services." **(NMC)**



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Business

FHB posts 6.3 pct. gain

HAGATNA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank announced Monday a 2010 first quarter net income of \$51.3 million, a 6.3-percent gain over the previous quarter and a 2.8-percent increase over the first quarter of 2009 excluding a one-time tax gain.

Total assets grew to a record \$14.3 billion. The announcement was made by Don Horner, First Hawaiian Bank chairman and chief executive officer.

"The bank experienced a respectable quarter and our overall fundamentals remain strong," Horner said. "We note that consumer confidence is clearly improving. However, we continue to anticipate slower growth rates in 2010 as the economy remains sluggish. The bank is well-positioned with strong core earnings, capital and asset quality to continue to provide our customers with both financial solutions and security."

Compared to the previous year, for the first three months ending March 31, 2010, First Hawaiian achieved the following:

- Total assets grew to a record \$14.3 billion, an increase of 6.7 percent;

- Deposits were \$10.2 billion, up 7.3 percent;

- Loans and leases were \$8 billion, a 0.5 percent increase;

- Capital (net worth) was in excess of \$2.5 billion and remained well above Hawaii banks and in

the top quartile nationally as a percentage of total assets;

- Non-performing assets to total assets remained one of the best in the U.S. at 0.2 percent; and

- Efficiency ratio was 43.8 percent, making First Hawaiian the most productive bank in Hawaii and one of the most efficient in the nation.

First Hawaiian remained the largest bank in Hawaii in terms of assets, deposits, loans, and earnings.

During the quarter the bank entered into a partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to offer a unique mortgage program to help Native Hawaiians achieve their dream of home



ownership. In May, the bank will open a Wealth Management Office at its newly-renovated Kahala Branch in East Oahu. The office will provide customers a comprehensive package of estate planning, trust and investment advisory solutions as well as private banking services. Also in May, First Hawaiian will be the first bank in Hawaii to offer consumers the convenience and security of remittance transfers to international countries.

This year, First Hawaiian celebrates 40 years of business on Guam. The bank is sponsoring a month-long 40th anniversary cel-

ebration with product and service offerings. From now until the end of the year, First Hawaiian will be making a donation for every new account or service sold, to the First Hawaiian Bank Trade Education Fund benefiting the GCA Trades Academy on Guam and Saipan's Northern Marianas Trade Institute. These organizations are committed to providing training for Guam and Saipan's workforce.

First Hawaiian Bank continues to be one of the strongest banks in the nation. It ranks in the top tier of all U.S. banks in terms of credit quality, earnings and capital. Institutional Risk Analytics, a national bank monitoring firm, gives First Hawaiian its highest A+ rating. First Hawaiian's parent company, BNP Paribas, is ranked by *Forbes Magazine* as the fifth largest bank in the world and ranked eighth on *Global Finance* magazine's list of the "World's 50 Safest Banks in 2009," a higher ranking than any U.S. bank.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with \$14.3 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. The bank is owned by BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. (FHB)

Toyota to fix 34,000 vehicles worldwide

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota will offer the same fix for stability control programming it has announced for the Lexus GX 460 in North America to vehicles in other regions, affecting 34,000 vehicles worldwide, the Japanese automaker said Tuesday.

Toyota Motor Corp. will update the stability-control software program to reduce the risk of vehicles sliding in some Land Cruiser Prado vehicles, as well as the Lexus GX 460, sold in other regions, the company said in a statement.

The move to expand the measures to other regions follows Toyota's recall in North America and its agreement Monday to a record \$16.4 million fine in the

U.S., levied for a slow response in earlier recalls.

Toyota has been fighting to regain its once-sterling reputation amid a spate of recalls, which have ballooned to more than 8 million vehicles worldwide, needing fixes for faulty gas pedals, defective floor mats and braking software problems.

Toyota has also been trying to be quicker. The latest global fix comes less than a week after Consumer Reports, an influential U.S. magazine, issued a warning about the Lexus GX 460 sport utility vehicle, saying it may be prone to rollovers.

The automaker said it will carry out similar fixes in Europe and the

Middle East to what is involved in the North American recall.

The vehicles requiring the update are 13,000 GX 460 vehicles—9,400 of them in the U.S., 1,000 in Russia and 1,000 in Oman.

Also affected are some types of left-hand-drive Land Cruiser Prado models. Those models total 21,000 globally, including 4,400 in Oman, 4,000 in Russia and 1,500 in the United Arab Emirates, according to Toyota.

Toyota said the vehicles could slide sideways when turning sharply at high speeds, partly because the fuel tank and the presence of the driver may make the left side of a vehicle heavier.

a House hearing Tuesday. Last month, an examiner appointed by the bankruptcy court to investigate the Lehman debacle issued a 2,200-page report. It found that the firm masked \$50 billion in debt by using the so-called Repo 105 accounting maneuver

Asian markets rise as Goldman jitters ease

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets rose Tuesday after a mostly higher finish on Wall Street as concerns eased about the U.S. government's case against Goldman Sachs. The

region's major benchmarks were up about 0.5 percent while oil regained some ground after a big tumble. The dollar fell against the yen and rose versus the euro. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average added 0.4 percent to 10,955.01 as a slightly weaker yen gave support to exporters. South Korea's Kospi was up 0.4 percent at 1,713.43, Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.6 percent to 21,530.09 and Australia's benchmark gained 0.3 percent. Stock markets in Taiwan and Singapore also rose, while shares in mainland China fell.

Nation

Poll: Most in US against legalizing pot



AP
Magic Ellingson, who goes by Henry Hemp, smells a marijuana plant at the International Cannabis & Hemp Expo on Saturday, April 17, 2010, in Daly City, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Most Americans still oppose legalizing marijuana but larger majorities believe pot has medical benefits and the government should allow its use for that purpose, according to an Associated Press-CNBC poll released Tuesday.

Respondents were skeptical that crime would spike if marijuana is decriminalized or that it would lead more people to harder drugs like heroin or cocaine. There also was a nearly even split on whether government spends too much

or the right amount enforcing marijuana laws. Almost no one thinks too little is spent.

Marijuana use—medically and recreationally—is getting more attention in the political arena. California voters will decide in November whether to legalize the drug, and South Dakota will vote this fall on whether to allow medical uses. California and 13 other states already permit such use.

The balloting comes against the backdrop of the Obama administration saying it won't target marijuana dispensaries

if they comply with state laws, a departure from the policy of the Bush administration, which sought to more stringently enforce the federal ban on marijuana use for any purpose.

In the poll, only 33 percent favor legalization while 55 percent oppose it. People under 30 were the only age group favoring legalization (54 percent) and opposition increased with age, topping out at 73 percent of those 65 and older. Opposition also was prevalent among women, Republicans and those in rural and suburban areas.

Gunman opens fire at Tenn. hospital; kills 1, self

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A gunman opened fire outside a hospital Monday, killing a woman and injuring two others before committing suicide, police said.

Knoxville Police Chief Sterling Owen IV said all the victims were female and current or former employees of Parkwest Medical Center. The attack happened about 4:30 p.m. outside the hospital's discharge area.

Police are still trying to de-

termine a motive but don't believe the shooter worked at the hospital, Owen said.

The names of the victims and suspect weren't released by police because the families haven't yet been notified.

Police put the hospital on lockdown as SWAT team members searched floor by floor to make sure no one else involved with the attack had made it inside.

"The hospital is safe and is being reopened with limita-

tions," Owen said.

Linda Cody, whose father was a patient at the hospital, said she was locked outside while her sister and mother were stuck in the room with her father as police searched the medical center.

She said she had gone outside to smoke a cigarette when she noticed a man lying face down, surrounded by blood, outside the discharge area of the hospital.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. district took 56,000 images on student laptops

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A suburban Philadelphia school district says it secretly captured 56,000 webcam photographs and screen shots from laptops issued to high school students. Lower Merion School District lawyer Henry Hockeimer (HOK'-eye-mer) says an internal investigation shows students likely were photographed inside their homes. He says none of the images appears inappropriate. A tracking program took images every 15 minutes to find missing computers. Hockeimer says the program sometimes was turned on for months. Sophomore Blake Robbins is suing the district. He alleges wiretap and privacy violations. He says the district took pictures of him sleeping in bed

and half-dressed.

Advocates carry handguns, rifles at Va. rally

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Carrying loaded pistols and unloaded rifles, dozens of gun-rights activists got as close as they could Monday to the nation's capital while still bearing arms and delivered what they said was a simple message: Don't tread on me. Hundreds of like-minded but unarmed counterparts carried out a separate rally in the nation's capital. The gun-carrying protesters in Virginia rallied on national park land, which is legal thanks to a new law signed by President Barack Obama that allows guns in national parks. Organizers said it's the first armed rally in a national park since the law passed.

Oklahoma City marks 15 years since bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—It's been 15 years since a terrorist's bomb destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 600 others. The passage of time hasn't made mourning any easier for many victims' family members. "Time heals nothing," said Debi Burkett Moore, whose brother, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development worker David Burkett, was killed. She and other family members placed flowers on an empty chair meant to honor her brother that's among a field of chairs at the Oklahoma City National Memorial. "It makes it a little more bearable, but it heals nothing," Moore said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Former Lehman boss to defend accounting moves

WASHINGTON (AP)—The former chief executive of Lehman Brothers will tell House lawmakers Tuesday that he has "absolutely no recollection whatsoever" about an accounting maneuver that a bankruptcy examiner says the company used to mask its perilous financial condition. Richard Fuld, Lehman's former CEO, said he does not recall seeing any documents related to the so-called Repo 105 accounting gimmick, according to testimony prepared for

Asia

Activist: NKoreans fired torpedo at SKorean ship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Seoul-based activist alleged Tuesday that a squad of North Korean soldiers was behind last month's deadly sinking of a South Korean frigate. The activist cited a North Korean military officer claiming knowledge of the plot.

The unidentified officer said a North Korean semi-submersible vessel carrying 13 crewmembers fired a torpedo at the Cheonan, according to Choi Sung-yong, who said he had spoken to the officer by telephone several times in recent days.

The claim could not be verified, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said it could not confirm the allegation.

An explosion split the 1,200-ton Cheonan in two on March

26 while the ship was on a routine patrolling mission in the western waters near the tense maritime border with North Korea. Fifty-eight sailors were rescued, but at least 38 died and eight are missing.

The military officer told Choi the soldiers are being hailed as heroes in North Korea, Choi told The Associated Press.

Seoul has not openly blamed Pyongyang for the sinking of the Cheonan, one of South Korea's worst naval disasters. North Korea has denied involvement.

However, communist North Korea has a record of attacking the South, its wartime rival, and suspicion of North Korean involvement is growing in Seoul. South Korean officials said they were investigating the possibility

that a North Korean mine or torpedo struck the warship.

The two Koreas have never signed a peace treaty since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce. Their militaries have clashed three times in the Yellow Sea, most recently in November. A North Korean sailor was killed and three others wounded in that battle, South Korean officials said.

Choi, whose father was abducted to North Korea decades ago, heads an association of relatives of abductees. Now an activist, he has been involved in bringing South Korean abductees and prisoners of war out of North Korea, and claims to have regular contact with several North Koreans, including the military officer.

China to hold day of mourning for quake victims

BEIJING, China (AP)—China announced a national day of mourning to be held Wednesday for victims of a devastating quake in a remote Tibetan region, as the death toll rose above 2,000.

National flags will fly at half-staff across the country and at its embassies and consulates overseas, marking one week since the earthquake hit, China's Cabinet announced Tuesday. All public entertainment will be suspended as well.

The death toll in remote Yushu county in western Qinghai province, high on the Tibetan plateau, rose to 2,046, while

more than 12,000 people were hurt, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. An additional 196 people remain missing.

Relief efforts could be hindered by rain that was expected Tuesday on the high-altitude region. Sleet, wind, and light snow are forecast for the next three days, said Guo Yinxiang, spokeswoman for the Qinghai Meteorological Bureau.

Snow and ice on Highway 214, the main roadway to the disaster area, was already causing some minor delays as aid-laden trucks slowed to a crawl or got stuck on the icy, winding moun-

tain passes.

Three people were rescued Monday, including a 4-year-old girl and an elderly woman who survived under the rubble for almost a week in China because relatives used bamboo poles to push water and rice to them until rescuers pulled them out.

The rescue of Wujian Cuomao, 68, and Cairen Baji, 4, from a crumbled home in a village about 13 miles (20 kilometers) from the hardest-hit town of Jiegu was hailed by state media as a miracle and repeatedly played on television news broadcasts.

Sherpa team plans to clean Everest's death zone

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A team of 20 Sherpa mountaineers plans to remove bodies of climbers who died in Mount Everest's "death zone," a treacherous stretch that has claimed some 300 lives since 1953, the team leader said Monday.

The team also aims to remove tons of garbage left behind on the slopes under a Nepalese government pro-

gram to clean up the popular tourist destination.

The 20 Sherpas plan to begin the expedition May 1 and set up camp at the South Col, 26,240 feet (8,000 meters) above sea level, team leader Namgyal said. Just above the South Col is the "death zone" area known as the toughest stretch for climbers because of low oxygen levels and

rough terrain.

The team said it plans to remove at least five bodies from a narrow trail between South Col and the summit, but has not identified them. In the past bodies have generally been removed only from lower elevations, because dangerous conditions have made removing bodies from the "death zone" nearly impossible.

on a police patrol on a mountain road east of the Philippine capital Tuesday, killing four officers and wounding five in the latest clash in a decades-old insurgency. About 20 New People's Army rebels hid along the road in the township of Baras in Rizal province near Manila, opened fire on the police patrol then detonated a land mine, officials said. The brazen ambush was the latest flare-up in rural insurgency that has left thousands dead and stunted economic development since the 1970s. The outnumbered police commandos returned fire, but four died and five were wounded in the clash, said police Special Action Force commander Leocadio Santiago.

Indonesia court upholds blasphemy law
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A

decision by Indonesia's constitutional court to uphold a controversial blasphemy law has dealt a severe blow to religious freedom in the world's largest Muslim-majority country, a rights group said Tuesday. The court ruled Monday that the 1965 law, which allows for criminal penalties and bans on people or groups that "distort" the central tenets of six officially recognized religions, was in line with the constitution and was vital to religious harmony. The law was challenged by a coalition of rights groups and civil society organizations who consider it discriminatory. But it is supported by religious conservatives, including the radical Islamic Defenders Front, which had gathered at the court and threatened to protest if the judges didn't uphold it.

World

Europe resumes some air travel despite volcano

LONDON (AP)—Europe began to emerge from a volcanic cloud Monday, allowing limited air traffic to resume and giving hope to millions of travelers stranded around the world when ash choked the jet age to a halt.

Even then, however, the eruption from the Icelandic volcano that caused the five days of aviation chaos was said to be strengthening and sending more ash toward Britain, which could make it unlikely that London airports would reopen Tuesday.

Three KLM passenger planes left Schiphol airport in

Amsterdam on Monday evening during daylight under visual flight rules bound for New York, Dubai and Shanghai. An Associated Press photographer saw one jet taking off into a colorful sunset, which weather officials said was pinker than normal due to the ash.

European Union transport ministers reached a deal during a crisis videoconference to divide northern European skies into three areas: a "no-fly" zone immediately over the ash cloud; a caution zone "with some contamination" where planes can fly subject

to engine checks for damage; and an open-skies zone.

Starting Tuesday morning, "we should see progressively more planes start to fly," said EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas.

The German airline Lufthansa said it would bring 50 planeloads of passengers home.

But the optimism was tempered Monday night by a statement from the British National Air Traffic Service, which said the eruption of the volcano has strengthened and a new ash cloud was spreading toward Britain.

Lingering ash cloud

Parts of Europe are still enforcing no-fly zones because of the drifting ash cloud from Iceland's volcano.



WORLD BRIEFS

Top al-Qaida leaders killed in Iraq, US says

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. and Iraq claimed a major victory against al-Qaida on Monday, saying their forces killed the terror group's two top figures in this country in an air and ground assault on their safehouse near Saddam Hussein's hometown. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced the killings of Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Abu Ayyub al-Masri at a news conference and showed photographs of their bloody corpses. U.S. military officials later confirmed the deaths, which Vice President Joe Biden called a "potentially devastating blow" to al-Qaida in Iraq. The organization has proven resilient in the past, showing a remarkable ability to change tactics and adapt—most notably after its brutal founder, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was killed nearly four years ago in a U.S. airstrike.

Still, some analysts contend, the group was far stronger then and would likely have a harder time now replenishing its leadership and sticking to a timetable of attacks.

Chavez hosts Latin American allies for summit

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez marked the 200th anniversary of Venezuela's independence movement Monday with celebrations and a gathering of his closest Latin American allies. Chavez greeted Raul Castro of Cuba, Evo Morales of Bolivia and other leaders as he presided over a parade that included troops, Amazonian Indians carrying bows and arrows, flag-waving supporters and civilians who have joined government militias. Wearing the trademark red beret of his army paratrooper years, Chavez reiterated his accusations of U.S. government meddling in Latin America while

praising Venezuela's move toward "democratic socialism."

Brazil priest detained after pedophilia accusation

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazilian police have detained an 83-year-old priest after a congressional hearing produced allegations he molested boys as young as 12, fueling a growing scandal involving Roman Catholic clergy across Latin America. The pedophilia allegations against Msgr. Luiz Marques Barbosa are the most lurid of sexual scandals to hit the church in one of its most powerful centers recently, driven home by a TV station broadcast of a sex tape of him in bed with a 19-year-old widely distributed on the Internet. Sen. Magno Malta, the Brazilian lawmaker leading the legislature's sexual abuse probe, said Barbosa's detention late Sunday was a milestone in the fight against child abuse in Brazil.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bangkok poised for another demonstration

BANGKOK (AP)—Soldiers in full combat gear garrisoned the Thai capital's central business district Tuesday as thousands of anti-government protesters nearby threatened to disrupt Bangkok with a major rally. More offices closed and at least one hotel reportedly shut down temporarily in face of another possible eruption of violence and a dramatic drop in tourist arrivals. Leaders of the so-called "Red Shirt" protesters said they would stage an "important" demonstration Tuesday but did not disclose their specific plans.

Communist rebels in Philippines kill 4 police

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels opened fire

Campus Life

NM young author is a native of the CNMI

The CNMI can once again be proud of its children abroad.

Li'Ana Dela Cruz Cepeda, a fourth grade student at Hillrise Elementary School in Las Cruces, New Mexico, has been designated a Young Author in New Mexico's School District.

Her first book, *Lost You!*, has been published by Nationwide Learning Inc. in Topeka, Kansas, and is now being distributed to all of New Mexico's School District Libraries.

Her teacher spoke highly of Cepeda's academic achievements and accomplishments in a letter sent to her parents, praising them of their daughter and thanking them for their tremendous support and encouragement in her education.

Cepeda dedicated her new book to her parents.

"I love to read, write and study! In my spare time, I enjoy strumming on my guitar and singing or just listening to music," says the young author.

Cepeda is very proud of her accomplishment and will be sharing her book with young readers in the CNMI. A copy of her book is being forwarded to the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

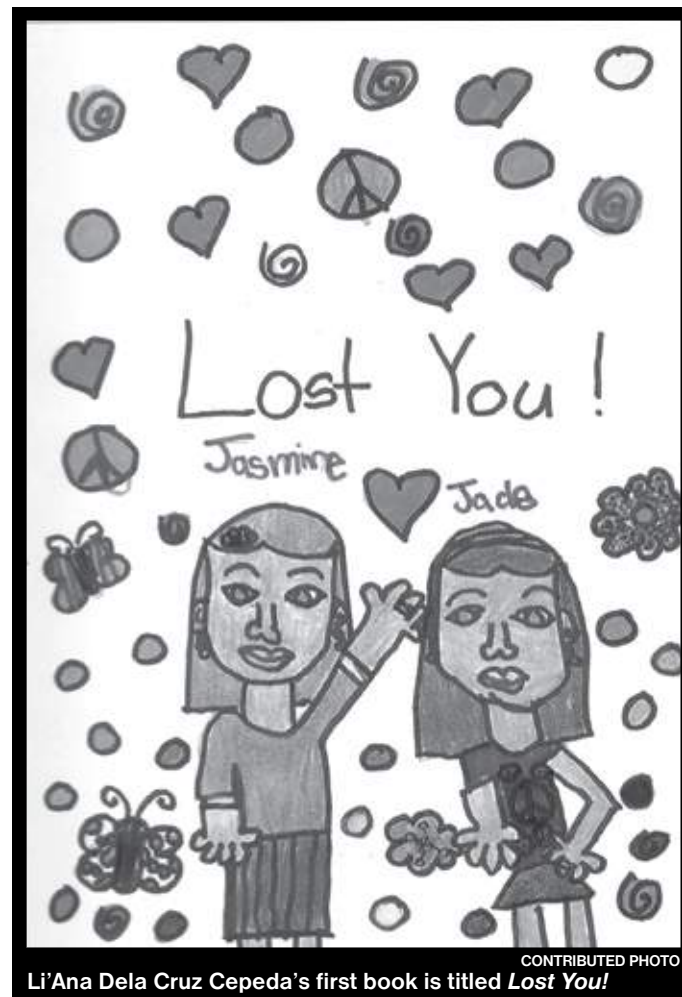
Her proud parents, Martin and Sharlene Cepeda, say they are truly blessed with their children.

"We encourage them to dream big, set your goals, don't try but do your best to accomplish them so that you can be successful. We hope and pray everyday that they will make good choices in their life and ask the Lord for his abundant blessings and continued guidance upon our children and give us more strength and patience in our lives," said the couple.

Cepeda is a former student of Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center and Dandan Elementary School. (PR)



Li'Ana Dela Cruz Cepeda is a fourth grade student at Hillrise Elementary School in Las Cruces, New Mexico. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Li'Ana Dela Cruz Cepeda's first book is titled *Lost You!* CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winning entries in Sengebau poetry contest

Kagman High School's Joseph Kumugai Jr. and Calvary Christian Academy's Yui Ito emerged champions in this year's Sengebau Poetry Competition, held April 13, 2010, at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center Theater.

Kumugai's poem, *Mirrorcles*, was named the

best entry in the senior division, while Ito's entry, *Saipan's Song and Dance*, was named overall champion in the junior division.

The NMI Council for the Humanities organized the annual event. The poems are being reprinted here with the authors' permission.

Mirrorcles

By JOSEPH KUMUGAI JR.
KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL



Kumugai Jr.

*I woke up this morning
to a setting sun.*

*I didn't worry much for it
was daytime before long.*

*I took the car to school
this time because we can
afford the gas,*

*and everyone said, "Hi!" to me, on the way
to class.*

*We didn't curse at the teacher, and we were
listening too.*

*Then, the bell rang on time again. Phew, I
made it through.*

*I went to visit my grandparents, just like I
always do.*

Grandma Rosie still has both kidneys.

Grandma Loling can see in both eyes.

Grandpa Saipan doesn't have diabetes.

And, grandpa Rota just turned sixty-five.

*I'm glad they're all alive and well. I can see
them everyday.*

*So, I went back to my house. I was tired,
anyway.*

*I come home to both parents. They never
went through with the divorce.*

*They never fight over money. Their love is
stronger, of course.*

*I can go without sleep at night. I'll be awake
throughout*

*Because it won't be dark anymore. The pow-
er never goes out.*

But, I'm tired this time. I should get as much

sleep as I can.

*As I laid my head on my pillow, I said to
myself, "I love Saipan."*

*I woke up to a rising sun. Things were back
to normal, it seemed.*

*It was then that I had realized yesterday was
just a dream.*

Saipan's song and dance

By YUI ITO
CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Ito

In Saipan, there is singing
everywhere.

The Kingfisher sings his
cheery song,

And the wind whistles
through Kalabera cave.

A wave's mighty roar,
Children on a lonely shore,

And empty shell's moan,
The low pitch of rain's pitter patter,

And the furious thunder's groans.
Because in Saipan, there is singing everywhere.

In Saipan, there is dancing everywhere.
Palms leaves sway in the breeze,

And the salty sea current blows through my hair.
Crabs race sideways,

Seaweed mimic waves,
Trees burst into flames on May,

Plumerias float gracefully,
And the stars march on the Milky Way.

Because in Saipan, there is dancing everywhere.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory

PEDRO KANI TEIGITA

Lovingly known as "Dung"

Was called to his eternal rest at the age of 62 • Sept. 23, 1947 – April 17, 2010

In his new life, he now joins his:

Reared Parents: Mariana Kani & Juan Teigita
Parents: Ignacia Teigita & Andres Reyes
Parents In-law: Consolacion S. & Pedro K. Iguel
Brothers: Samuel T. Cangco, Julian Reyes
Brothers In-laws: Miguel S. Iguel, Luis S. Iguel
Sister In-law: Doris Reyes
Nephews: Ernie T. Dela Cruz, Octavious T. Palacios

His memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:

Wife: Bernadita Iguel Teigita
Children/Spouses/Grandchildren
Lorraine I. & Hector Venus
Michael Iguel & Evangeline Fitial (*Nievanalyn, Darean, & Bernelia*)
Jeffrey I. Teigita & Emily K. Atalig (*Oceana, Issa, & Erniejay*)
Mariana I. Teigita (*Isaiah*)
Peter I. Teigita & Sharon B. Kaipat (*Elisha*)
Cayetana T. & Ereneo B. Dela Cruz
Carmelita T. & Alan I. Palacios
Vicente T. & Remedio D. Cangco
Michael T. & Anna I. Cangco
Pasqual T. & Evelyn D. Cangco
Isaac T. & Pamela K. Cangco
Hilaria C. & Jerry Woolley

Brothers/Sisters & In-laws:

Brothers & Sisters: (Guam)
Mr. & Mrs. Rosario Arriola And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Reyes And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Frankie Reyes And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Annie Chaco And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Mary Perez And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Reyes And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Reyes And Family
Mr. & Mrs. Dolores Reyes And Family

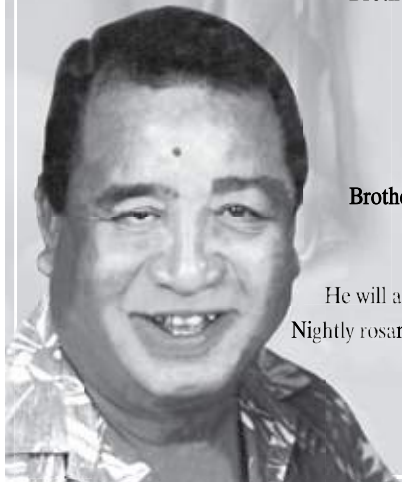
Brothers & Sisters In-law
Marina T. Iguel, Eremias M. & Dionicia O. Iguel,
Lydia M. Iguel, and Anna I. & Ivan Gatbanton

He will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren & friends.
Nightly rosary is being said at the families residence in Tanapag, Saipan at 7:45 p.m.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Thank You & Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family



Life & Style

At 40, Lopez balances motherhood, marriage, movies

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Two children and two years later, Jennifer Lopez has resurfaced with a “Back-up Plan.”

“This movie is about a woman who gets to a point in her life,” Lopez says. “She’s successful ... She has a full life. But, at the same time, she hasn’t found that person to share her life with and to have a family with, and so she decides to do it on her own. She decides to have a baby on her own.”

The film, opening Friday, is part of the mid-life movie genre that has served actresses well of late, including such blockbusters as “The Proposal” and “It’s Complicated,” starring Sandra Bullock, 45, and Meryl Streep,

60, respectively. “The Back-up Plan” marks Lopez’s first film since turning 40 last July.

“It is a great time to be an actress,” Lopez said at a recent convention of theater owners in Las Vegas. “It seems like you can work and do anything at any age ... It’s a great time that people are just seeing people’s souls.”

“It’s not so superficial anymore,” the actress continued. “Women have proven that they are viable in this business, as well, and it doesn’t matter if you’re not 21 years old. It just matters that you’re great at what you do. And that’s exciting.”

“Back-up Plan” works through a variety pregnancy is-

Aziz Ansari to host the 19th annual MTV Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aziz Ansari says he’s preparing to host his first awards show, the 2010 MTV Movie Awards, by stalking veteran Oscar host Billy Crystal.

“I’m outside of his house right now,” Ansari joked by phone Monday. “I’ve just kind of been watching Crystal from afar, outside his property.”

MTV said Ansari, the 27-year-old star of NBC’s “Parks and Recreation,” will host the awards on June 6.

Network general manager Stephen Friedman said viewers loved Ansari on “Human Gi-

I enjoy doing,” Ansari said. “With the monologue, I get to use my standup skill, and I love making short films and stuff, and that’s another thing the host gets to do.”

The actor-comedian said he consulted his friends and past



In this Nov. 11, 2009 file photo, actor Aziz Ansari arrives at Puma’s African Bazaar event in Los Angeles.

MTV Movie Awards hosts Sarah Silverman, Andy Samberg and Ben Stiller for advice.

“It’s all a ploy to get a hosting gig with the Teen Choice Awards next year,” Ansari said with a laugh. “Or the Nickelodeon Toddler’s Choice Awards, that’s what I really want to host.”

Ansari is set to begin his “Dangerously Delicious” standup tour this summer and can be seen in the film “Get Him to the Greek,” a comedy starring Jonah Hill and Russell Brand due in June.

Fans can vote online for the winners of the 2010 MTV Movie Awards, which will be presented during a live broadcast from the Gibson Amphitheatre in Los Angeles.



sues — now familiar turf for Lopez, who gave birth to fraternal twins, Emme and Maximilian, in February 2008.

One thing in the film she couldn’t relate to: the last act’s big (and hilarious) waterbirthing sequence.

“No!” Lopez laughed. “I didn’t have any water birth. I was in a hospital. It was a much more controlled atmosphere: no singing, no drums. But there was a little bit of music. But other than that, no similarities.”

In addition to making a movie and caring for her children (with musician-husband Marc Anthony), Lopez continues to run her empire, which also includes a fra-

In this photo provided by NBC Universal, actress Jennifer Lopez appears on NBC’s “Today” show to talk about her new movie “The Backup Plan”, in New York, on Monday, April 19, 2010.

AP

grance line, clothing and music.

And the music will keep playing for Lopez, though not at longtime label Sony Music, which she amicably left earlier this year.

“I had done seven albums with Sony, believe it or not,” she explained. “We had a great relationship, and we sold a lot of records, and the company, you know, has changed a little bit, and I just thought it was time for a fresh start.”

For movies, however, the star has gone back to her roots, returning to the romantic comedy genre that made her a bankable movie star with film’s such as 2002’s “Maid in Manhattan” and “Shall We Dance?” in 2004.

“Love is an endlessly fascinating subject for me,” she noted, with a laugh. “I love to watch movies in bed with Marc — romantic comedies, much to his chagrin. He doesn’t love them, but he puts up with it. Those are our date nights.”

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT †DANIEL TENORIO VILLAGOMEZ January 22, 1936 - April 14, 2010

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Rosario DLG Villagomez

CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

✿ **Barbara DLG Villagomez**

✿ **Joseph DLG Villagomez** (Lorenzo Xavier Q. Villagomez, Marjorie Denise V. & Leonard Pangelinan, Ashley Mae Q. Villagomez & James, Jenna Marie Q. Villagomez, Rosie Adaline Q. Villagomez, Cierra Jade Q. Villagomez)

✿ **Lorina DLG Villagomez** & Paul Manglona (Daniel Glenn V. Iglecias & Beth (Ha'ane), Alexis V. Iglecias (Arion), Daena V. Iglecias, Shanelle V. Iglecias, A.J.V. Iglecias)

✿ **Julie June DLG Villagomez** & John Fortin (Joaquin Manuel V. Celis, Julia V. Garrido, Rodanee DLG Villagomez)

✿ **Antonia V.** & Ian Carr (Jesse DLG Villagomez & Dina, Stephanie V. Blas & Josh, Renee V. Blas, Robert Daniel V. Carr, Ian V. Carr)

✿ **Daniel DLG Villagomez** & Tina Marie Blas (Terranica B. Villagomez, Daro Jay B. Villagomez)

SISTERS & IN-LAWS:

Remedio Camacho

Cecilia M. Villagomez

Remedio DLG Villagomez

Vicenta A. Villagomez

Remedio A. Villagomez

Magdalena J. Villagomez

Isabel Villagomez & Francisco Camacho

Francisca Villagomez & Ron Sintkowski

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAWS:

Nenita Deleon Guerrero

Ramon & Rufina Deleon Guerrero

Jesus & Vicky Deleon Guerrero

Angelina Deleon Guerrero

Mariana DLG & Ron Hansen

Lorenzo & Frances Deleon Guerrero

Jose & Bang On Deleon Guerrero

Ramona DLG & John Pangelinan

Lourdes DLG Nakazato

Bernadita DLG & John Diego Urumelog

In his new life, he now joins his:

PARENTS:

†Jose Seman & †Antonia Tenorio Villagomez

BROTHERS:

†Roman T. Villagomez

†Antonio T. Villagomez

†Jesus T. Villagomez

†Joaquin T. Villagomez

†Jose T. Villagomez

BROTHER-IN-LAW:

†Vicente Deleon Guerrero

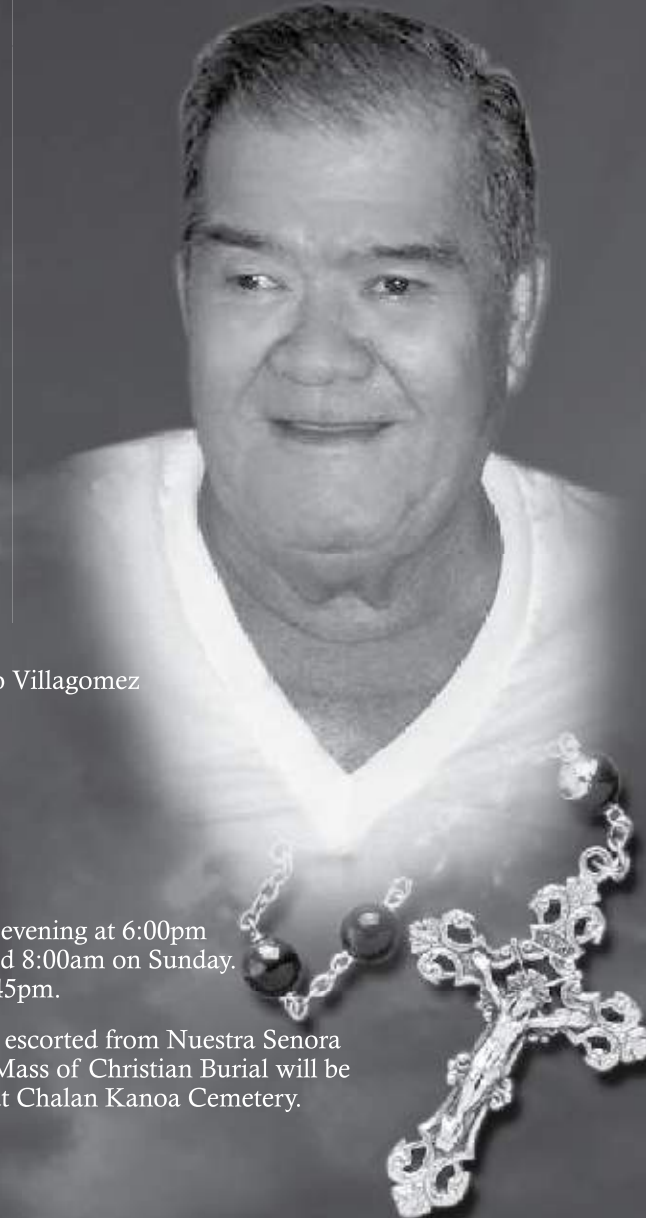
†Takeo Nakazato

Mass is being offered at St Jude Church every evening at 6:00pm on Monday thru Friday; 7:00am on Saturday; and 8:00am on Sunday. Nightly rosary is being said at 6:45pm.

On Thursday, April 22, 2010, our beloved +Daniel will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00am to St.Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family



NEW YORK (AP)—The continued grounding of planes in Europe means Miley Cyrus must skip a trip to England, forced the world premiere of “Iron Man 2” to be moved from London to Los Angeles and prevented Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings from performing on “Late Show With David Letterman.”

But if you’re a citizen of Iceland stuck in New York, you can score free tickets to “The 39 Steps.”

Hundreds of thousands of passengers have been stranded around the world since a volcano in southern Iceland began erupting Wednesday, leaving a cloud of volcanic ash hanging over Europe and shutting down airports from England to Germany. Restrictions were starting to ease Monday, but not in time to prevent numerous postponements and other disruptions in the entertainment industry.

Cyrus spokeswoman Meghan Prophet of PMK-BNC said Monday that the actress-singer would miss the British premiere of her current film, “The Last Song,” scheduled for Tuesday in

Volcano presses ‘Iron Man 2’

London. Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment announced they had moved the “Iron Man 2” premiere, scheduled for April 26, “due to the continuing air travel uncertainty.”

Organizers of the Tribeca Film Festival were monitoring the situation for filmmakers and actors planning to fly from Europe for the New York festival, which begins Wednesday evening. Festival spokeswoman Tammie Rosen said they were “taking it flight by flight,” trying to reroute those with canceled flights and making contingency arrangements in case the delays extend through the week.

“Late Night With Jimmy Fallon,” “The View” and “Live With Regis and Kelly” were among the television shows reporting no changes in programming. But “Late Show With David Letterman” spokeswoman Kim Izzo said that

Jones & the Dap Kings, scheduled to perform Monday for a show airing Friday, had been on a European tour and were “still stuck overseas.”

The London Book Fair opened Monday despite the absence of numerous publishing officials from the United States and other countries. HarperCollins publisher Jonathan Burnham had hoped to attend the London fair, calling it a “significant exchange of information in the publishing calendar for international publishers.”

“For corporate publishing houses with operations on both sides of the Atlantic, there’s a great deal of useful activity in London, not just between publishers and editors, but between sales representatives, digital development groups, rights departments and so forth,” Burnham said.

The publisher for Alexander McCall

Smith, a resident of Edinburgh, had to cancel a two-week North American tour that was to begin Tuesday, spokeswoman Michiko Clark of Pantheon Books said. Smith’s “The Double Comfort Safari Club,” his latest “No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency Novel,” comes out this week.

A planned book party in New York for John Banville was canceled because the Irish author was unable to fly over, publisher Henry Holt and Company announced Monday. W.W. Norton and the literary agency Sterling Lord Literistic canceled a reception for a book

about the late Muriel Spark because biographer Martin Stannard could not make it from London.

French actress Catherine Deneuve and Hong Kong businessman Sir David Tang, founder of the Shanghai Tang chain, were unable to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design Etoile Awards, where Monday night they were being honored in New York as “trendsetting visionaries” of style and design.

Meanwhile, the producers of “The 39 Steps” said Monday that anyone showing an Icelandic passport will receive two free tickets to the Off-Broadway comedy, for Monday, Wednesday or Thursday night.

“Don’t spend one more evening on a cot at JFK,” producer Harriet Leve said in a statement.

Michael Douglas asks NY judge for mercy toward son

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Douglas says his family’s fame and history of substance abuse helped drive his troubled son into drug addiction and crime, and the Academy Award-winning actor is asking a judge to show leniency toward him.

“I love my son, but I’m not blind to his actions. ... I don’t want to see him break,” the actor told the federal judge in a handwritten letter made public Monday, on the eve of Cameron Douglas’ sentencing in a drug case.

The five-page letter, penned in an elegant script, joins others written to the court by Cameron Douglas’ high-profile supporters, including grandfather Kirk Douglas, stepmother Catherine Zeta-Jones and NBA executive Pat Riley.

Cameron Douglas, arrested in July at a Manhattan hotel, admitted in January that he dealt methamphetamine and cocaine. He pleaded guilty to a drug charge that carries a mandatory 10 years in prison, but his lawyers and supporters are arguing for less time.

A defense lawyer and Michael Douglas’ publicist didn’t immediately return telephone calls Monday evening; prosecutors declined to comment.

In his letter, Douglas paints his son’s problems as the product, in part, of a privileged but difficult childhood, a



Douglas

family legacy of drug and alcohol problems and the long shadow cast by a family of screen icons.

“I have some idea of the pressure of finding your own identity with a famous father,” wrote Douglas, who starred in “Wall Street” and whose father starred in “Spartacus.” “I’m not sure I can comprehend it with two generations to deal with.”

As the only child of a “bad marriage” between an often absent Michael Douglas and his first wife, Diandra Douglas, “Cameron found his family in the gang

mentality,” his father wrote.

He said his son developed a substance abuse problem at 13, sloughed off at school and balked at the idea of rehab unless it was legally required.

Cameron Douglas eventually found some success as a club DJ and got some movie roles, including one in 2003’s “It Runs in the Family,” starring his father and grandfather. But he spiraled into a heroin addiction and, according to his lawyers, began dealing meth in 2006 to support himself after being cut off from the family fortune because he wouldn’t get treatment.

Citing genes and family as factors in substance abuse, Michael Douglas points in his letter to relatives’ drug and alcohol problems, though their names have been redacted. Douglas has said he was treated at an Arizona clinic for alcohol abuse in the 1990s. His half-brother, Eric Douglas, died in 2004 of an accidental overdose of alcohol and prescription pills after years of struggling with addiction.

Douglas wrote that he has cherished weekly two-hour visits with his son over the past eight months at a Manhattan federal jail. With his son behind bars but sober, “I get to witness the wonderful young man he can be,” he wrote.

Harsh Amazon reviewer unmasked as author’s wife

LONDON (AP)—A reviewer signed as “Historian” posted some savage reviews on Amazon’s Web pages, but had a weakness for one writer, celebrated author and Russia expert Orlando Figes.

Historian has now been exposed as Figes’ loyal wife, Stephanie Palmer, a senior law lecturer at Girton College at Cambridge University.

The revelation has raised eyebrows in Britain’s cozy academic world, where public backbiting is frowned upon.

Figes, a professor of history at Birkbeck College, had denied that he had anything to do with the harsh comments on Amazon about books by Rachel Polonsky, Robert Service and Kate Summerscale.

On Friday, however, Figes’ lawyer, David Price, confirmed that the reviews were posted by Palmer.

“My client’s wife wrote the reviews,” said a statement issued by Price. “My client has only just found out about this, this evening. Both he and his wife are taking steps to make the position clear.”

The unmasking of one of the countless anonymous ranters on the World Wide Web gave scandal-starved British journalists some relief from volcanic ash and the election campaign on Monday.

“It was the professor’s wife, with a keyboard, on Amazon,” said the headline on The Bookseller magazine’s Web site.

The Guardian newspaper said Polonsky had noticed one stinging review among several raves for her book, “Molotov’s Magic Lantern.” Historian called it “the sort of book that makes you wonder why it was ever published.”

Historian had been similarly unkind to Service, calling his book on Leon Trotsky a “dull read.”

And when Figes lost out to Summerscale for the 30,000-pound (\$45,000) Samuel Johnson Prize in 2008, Historian said: “Oh dear, what on earth were the judges thinking?”

Figes’ entry for the Johnson prize,

“The Whisperer,” was praised as a “beautiful and necessary” account of the Soviet Union. “I hope he writes forever,” Historian gushed.

“Let’s be clear: what Miss Palmer did was an absolute scandal, one to which none of her victims would ever have stooped,” Philip Hensher wrote in The Independent.

He noted that Polonsky had given a rotten review to one of Figes’ books in 2002, “but did so honorably, under her own name in The Times Literary Supplement.”

Amazon did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Six years ago, some authors were caught anonymously puffing their own books on Amazon. One of those authors, John Rechy, pleaded self-defense.

“That anybody is allowed to come in and anonymously trash a book to me is absurd,” Rechy said at the time. “How to strike back? Just go in and rebut every single one of them.”

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By Cindy Elavsky

Q: I really like the actress who plays Flo on the Progressive Insurance commercials. Can you tell me her name and a little bit about her? I think she is hilarious!—Lawrence D., West Palm Beach, Fla.

A: Stephanie Courtney, 40, plays the beehive-hair Progressive Insurance agent in the series of comedic commercials. She has made appearances in a variety of television shows and films, including “Blades of Glory,” “Sons of Tucson,” “ER,” “For Your Consideration,” “The United States of Tara” and “Mad Men.”

On a related note, she also starred on the series “Cavemen,” which was based on the cavemen characters in the Geico Insurance commercials. Apparently Progressive didn’t mind her association with its competitor, as they cast her in their most successful series of commercials to date.

Q: I was sad to hear of the passing of actor John Forsythe, who seemed the consummate professional in every role he played. How are his Hollywood friends responding to his death?—Patti T., via e-mail

A: John’s former “Dynasty” co-star Joan Collins called him the “last of the true gentlemen of the acting profession. He will be greatly missed.” Kate Jackson, who worked with him on “Charlie’s Angels,” said: “He had a grace about him that was incredibly awesome. He was wonderful.” Heather Locklear, who also worked with him on “Dynasty,” said: “John was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was a gifted actor who knew the true meaning of being gracious and kind.”

John passed away on April 1 from complications of pneumonia after a four-year battle with cancer. He was 92.

Q: Is it true that S. Epata Merkersen is leaving “Law & Order”? I hope not, since she is one of my fa-



S. EPATA MERKERSON

vorite characters.—Sheila F., Harrisburg, Pa.

A: I’m sorry to be the one to tell you that the rumors are true. Merkersen recently told EW.com that she did indeed plan to leave the hit crime drama after 16 years on the show. She revealed: “It’s the end of my contract this year, and the story line has been so perfect. I’ve given it my best for 16 years. It’s time to move on. I’m doing other things, and this will be a great way to leave what has been an extraordinary gig.”

Q: Tori Spelling and Dean McDermott seem to be fighting a lot this season on Oxygen’s “Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood.” Are they going to get a divorce?—Terri F., via e-mail

A: According to Tori herself, she and Dean are NOT heading to divorce court. The actress—whose reality show just began its fifth season—told NBC’s “Today” show: “We’re committed to each other; we’re committed to this family. But you know, we work on things just like everyone else. We have our fights. We have our ups and downs. It’s a real relationship.”

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com. For more news and extended interviews, visit www.celebrityextraonline.com and twitter.com/CelebrityExtra.

Mo'Nique's brother admits he molested her



AP
In this Sept. 16, 2009 file photo, actress Mo'Nique poses for a portrait in New York.

Rink writer: Johnny Weir working on book of essays

NEW YORK (AP)—Johnny Weir has more to say, so he's working on a book - a funny book.

Publisher Gallery Books announced Monday that the figure skater and reality TV star will release a "collection of wildly entertaining anecdotes and essays about everything from pop

culture to skating to fashion to Johnny himself."

Weir stars on the Sundance Channel's "Be Good, Johnny Weir." The book is untitled so far and is scheduled to come out in January 2011.

Gallery is an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend to help Chernobyl children

MOSCOW (AP)—The Russian-born singer who split from actor Mel Gibson earlier this month said Monday she will perform a charity concert in Moscow to aid victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Oksana Grigorieva said the concert proceeds will pay for vital surgery for children born in the area affected by radioactivity from the 1986 nuclear plant explosion and fire.

Grigorieva told journalists she already has funded operations for 50 children with heart conditions and leukemia in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

"Children's pain hurts me too," she told a news conference. "I always wanted to help children through music."

Grigorieva and Gibson split this month after a three-year romance. She said they had agreed to raise their baby daughter Lucia together.

She denied media reports that Gibson asked for a DNA test to prove his fatherhood.

"It's not true," she said. "There has been a lot of lies written about us."

She also said she would re-



AP
Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend, Russian-born singer, songwriter Oksana Grigorieva, gestures during a news conference in Moscow, Monday, April 19, 2010.

move a hammer-and-sickle tattoo on her ankle, which Gibson had advised her to get.

After announcing his relation with Grigorieva last year, Gibson filed for a divorce with his wife Robyn after 28 years of marriage and seven children together.

Grigorieva also has a son with actor Timothy Dalton.

CHICAGO (AP)—The brother of Oscar winner Mo'Nique said Monday on Oprah Winfrey's talk show that he molested the actress when they were children and he wants to apologize to her.

Gerald Imes said on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that the molestation continued for a year or two, starting when he was 13 and Mo'Nique was 7 or 8.

"I abused and betrayed the trust of another sibling, my sister, my blood sister," Imes said. He apologized to the actress, saying "I'm sorry, Mo'Nique. I'm sorry."

Imes said he decided to appear on Winfrey's show to apologize to Mo'Nique and bring their family back together. Imes said he himself was molested and he was using drugs and alcohol at age 11.

"Hopefully somewhere,

somehow as siblings we can come back together as brother and sister," he said.

Mo'Nique has discussed her brother's molestation in previous interviews. She hasn't responded to a request for comment sent to her publicist. Winfrey said Mo'Nique didn't want to be a part of the interview but gave Winfrey her blessing.

"She said if your expressing what you had done to her could save one family then it would be worth it," Winfrey told Imes. Mo'Nique's parents also appeared on the episode.

"It was such a heartbreaking thing to accept," said her mother, Alice Imes.

Mo'Nique received the supporting actress Academy Award in March for her role in "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by

Sharon Osbourne to give breast implants to Ozzy

NEW YORK (AP)—Sharon Osbourne says she's having her breast implants removed this summer and will give them to her husband, rocker Ozzy Osbourne, as a paperweight.

The 57-year-old reality TV star says the implants will be better on Ozzy's desk "than on my chest 'cause they're awful."

She confirmed reports of her plans to do so during an appearance Monday on the "Today" show.

Osbourne is competing on NBC's "The Celebrity Apprentice."

She says the show is the hardest thing she's ever done in her career, but also the best.

Says Osbourne: "It's constant mental pressure, and you've got such a short time to do each challenge. ... It's really tough."

Chris Brown to host Haiti benefit concert

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B singer Chris Brown will headline and host a benefit concert in Virginia next month.

"Virginia Stand Up! A Call to Action" will be held May 15 at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Performers will include Trey Songz, Keri Hilson, T-Pain, Mario and Ryan Leslie.

The 20-year-old said in a statement Monday he wanted to personally contribute to the Haitian relief effort and support an organization that helps people in his home state. Proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross and the Central Virginia Foodbank.

Brown was sentenced last year to five years' probation and six months of community labor after pleading guilty to felony assault. He was charged in an attack on his then-girlfriend Rihanna hours before the 2009 Grammys.



AP
In this photo taken Sept. 5, 2008, Sharon Osbourne arrives for the Stand Up to Cancer benefit at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles.



AP
In this Feb. 12, 2010 file photo, Chris Brown models at Naomi Campbell's Fashion For Relief - Haiti fashion benefit, shown during Fashion Week in New York.

Wife wonders how to address husband's choice of clothes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I think my husband may be a cross-dresser. Last night while "Roland" and I were cuddling in bed, I felt his legs and they were smoother than mine. I asked him why he keeps shaving his legs and stomach, and then it dawned on me. Roland has sent me e-mails hinting about dressing up.

One year, he purchased a pair of high heels, saying he wanted to dress up like a woman. I examined them the other day and there is evidence that they have been worn more than once. My lingerie drawer is sometimes a mess, and sometimes my clothes are a bit out of place. I believe my husband dresses up while I'm out of town on business trips.

I'd kind of like to see him dressed up, but I'm afraid he might look sexier than me. Lately Roland has been asking me if he can join me when I go shopping for clothes. He does chores around the house (vacuuming, ironing, dishes), and if he enjoys cross-dressing, I say he can wear any outfit he wants. How can I tell him I know what he's doing?

WISE TO HIM IN FORT WORTH

DEAR WISE TO HIM: The next time the two of you cuddle up in bed, tell Roland you have been thinking about the e-mail he sent you regarding dressing up, that it's OK with you, and you think you might enjoy seeing him that way. It's a non-threatening way to get the message across.

But please remember that not all men who shave their body hair are cross-dressers. And if your husband has been doing the ironing—and the washing that would naturally precede it—your clothes may not have been the way you left them because he put them away. As to him accompanying you shopping, plenty of non-cross-dressers shop with their wives—and some of them have better taste than the women.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend will not let go of my past. I didn't level with him about a couple of relationships because I knew he was a racist. He found out, and now all I get is teasing and comments almost every day. If he sees a talk show about a liar, he says, "Oh! There you are!" It's the same if the subject is a whore.

What he's doing is hurting me. Is this normal behavior? Am I supposed to ignore him? I have asked him to stop, but he says he won't until I learn to laugh about it. Any suggestions?

EMBARRASSED IN ANAHEIM

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Just this: What's going on is not "normal" and it's no laughing matter. Tell your boyfriend that the next time he calls you a whore or a liar, he is history. And stand by your word, unless you want to spend the rest of your life with a racist who has a sadistic sense of humor and no respect for your feelings.

DEAR ABBY: How do I tell a friend of many years that the wig she wears is not flattering? We're nearly 80, and the wig is black and falls past her shoulders. Her hair was dark when she was young, but now the color looks harsh.

She started wearing the wig because it was too much trouble to go to the hairdresser every week. Something shorter and lighter in color would look much better.

My friend can be vain about her appearance. How do I enlighten her without hurting her feelings?

CARING FRIEND IN OHIO

DEAR CARING FRIEND: Here's what I'd do. With the understanding that it's affordable, I would suggest to my friend that "for kicks" the two of us "girls" go out for a makeup and hair makeover—and let a professional broach the subject. If she declined the invitation, I'd keep my mouth firmly shut. And that's what I'd recommend to you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



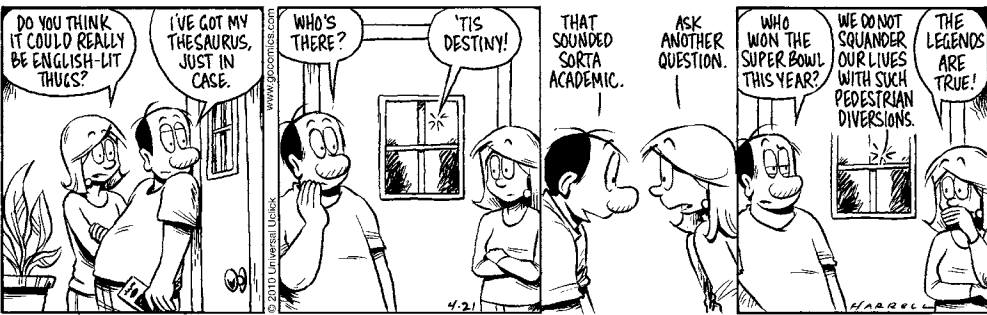
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Water barriers

5 Foolish one

8 Pack cargo

12 Bas- soon's cousin

13 Leap

14 George- town athlete

15 Produce

17 Holly

18 List of candi- dates

19 Breathing hard, maybe

21 Retain

24 Goof up

25 FDR is on it

28 Verdi opera

30 Pub order

33 Important numero

34 Preju- diced sort

35 Afternoon social

36 Conclu- sion

37 A Great Lake

38 Yogi or Smokey

39 Long, time

41 Verifiable

43 Earns

46 Throat ailment

50 Exam format

51 Free

54 Initial chip

55 Praise in verse

56 Teen's woe

57 Require

58 Witty one

59 2001, for one

DOWN

1 Kennel

2 The occu- pants

3 "— Lisa"

4 Boil

5 "Eureka!"

6 No

7 Jet forth

8 Less outgoing

9 Stand

10 Court- room call

11 Like

16 Old

20 Radiator offering

22 Den

23 1 in 1,000,000?

25 Payable

26 Quaint stopover

27 Preside over

29 Active one

31 Grazing area

32 Audience

34 Crooked

38 Backstab

40 Lubri- cated

42 Work with

43 Haunted house

44 Sea eagle

45 Un- hurried

47 "The Amazing —"

48 Italian volcano

49 Juror, in theory

52 Greek mountain

53 Plead

Solution time: 21 mins.

BRAD FOR MONO
IOTA ADE ABEL
BETHESDA ROAD
LET DATER
SNAIL BACH
PAPA ALPHABET
ASS APITY EAR
SHERBETS TATE
HARZ SOUSE
WAPITI OHM
INON TIBETANS
DEMO IRE OLIO
EWES FAY MEAT

Yesterday's answer 4-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andie Macdowell, 52; Tony Danza, 59; Iggy Pop, 63; Charles Grodin, 75

Happy Birthday: You can make changes to your surroundings or make a move to a place better suited to your lifestyle and more convenient for achieving your goals. Learning will be a big part of your year. Don't let someone who questions or opposes you dictate what you can and cannot do. Be strong and steadfast. Your numbers are 5, 13, 16, 21, 28, 30, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for competitive activities that will allow you to blow off steam. You don't want to leave yourself open for an argument with someone who has a different idea on how you should live your life. The less interaction you have with others, the better. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Expect to face some trouble at home if you decide to argue a moot point. Let everyone be and do as they please and you will all get far more accomplished. A love relationship can take on new meaning if you change your attitude. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make sure what you say is what you mean because you will be held accountable. You may want change but be careful what you wish for, especially if your plans involve other people. You are far better off working on your own. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your efforts into work, finding work or discovering ways to put your talents, skills and craftsmanship to work for you. Making money

must be your concern and, doing so in a unique way, will satisfy you emotionally as well. Don't wait for things to come to you; seize the moment. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your heart rule your head. Concentrate on personal gains and being the best you can be. Anger will lead to setbacks, not gains. Keep a close watch on the competition but don't retaliate. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take matters into your own hands and make decisions and choices that will spark new vitality in the things you want to pursue. Partnerships will develop that will allow you to make some interesting financial moves. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Humanitarian pursuits will help you professionally as well as personally but don't let them cost you financially. The more money you put into home, family and your future, the better. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep things to yourself for the time being. Not everyone around you is trustworthy. Believe in yourself for a change and good things will come to you. A change of scenery will do you good. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take on a challenge, knowing that you can come out on top and make a little extra cash on the side. You will attract attention with your finesse but if you oversell, you will pay the price when you are asked to deliver. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be excited about changes heading your way but remember that it's your

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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effort that will lead to victory. Partnering with someone you feel comfortable with will enable you to get twice as much done. Spend more time with the person you love. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep a watchful eye on what the people around you are doing. You can get into trouble if you meddle in someone's affairs. Confidence is required to get ahead. Listen to someone with experience. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If someone else wants to do a poor job, take the opportunity to do more and to look good. Your efforts won't go unnoticed and will turn into something quite surprising. Don't waffle or you may miss out. *****

Birthday Baby: You have charm, grace and dignity. You are creative with a good eye for quality and value. You are strong-willed and stubborn.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			2	6	3	7				
				9				4		
9		3						7		
7	2					4				1
		6							9	
5	4	1								3
1	8			7						4
2					6	8	3			
				4	1					

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	9	3	2	8	6	4	1
3	8	1	6	9	4	7	2	5
4	2	6	5	7	1	9	3	8
9	1	3	8	4	7	5	6	2
6	4	8	9	5	2	1	7	3
5	7	2	1	6	3	4	8	9
8	9	7	2	1	6	3	5	4
1	3	4	7	8	5	2	9	6
2	6	5	4	3	9	8	1	7

Difficulty Level **

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OLYMPIC SPORTS Solution: 6 letters

N N S E C H A L L E N G E T S
O O D N C R E V L I S P O R T
T L R R O N O L H T A I B A R
N H O D W W A Q E V I D M I E
I T C P I R B R U G B Y K N N
M A E E R C E O U E E L A C G
D I R N Z E C S A D T U Y U T
A R E T I N T O T R N G A R H
B T T A F P O A M L D E K L O
O E N T L @ L R W B I I I C
X V I H @ D A A B O I N N N K
I E W L G N I I K S R N G G E
N N @ O D U J C R I C K E T Y
G T E N N I S W I M M I N G L
G N I K I B O B S L E I G H S

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Alpine, Badminton, Biathlon, Biking, Bobsleigh, Boxing, Bronze, Challenge, Combine, Cricket, Croquet, Curling, Dive, Endurance, Event, Gold, Golf, Hockey, Judo, Kayaking, Luge, Nordic, Pentathlon, Records, Rugby, Silver, Skiing, Snowboarding, Sport, Strength, Swimming, Tennis, Torch, Train, Triathlon, Water Polo, Winter, Work, Wrestling
Yesterday's Answer: Encourage
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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The FCD AD
Adoption Of: CIVIL
ACTION

GIOVONNIELYN NO.
RAUEPI CAMACHO, 10-0197
Minor Child,

By: NOTICE
CHIMAURO RAUEPI OF
and ROSA RAUEPI HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for
a hearing on May 27, 2010 at
1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A,
before the associate Judge
Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of April,
2010.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Mark Aguon, Administrator
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DAY & NIGHT



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An Alliance of Northern Marianas Human/Social Service Providers

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MED RED DEAD FESTIVE

Find today's solution in this section

Short-handed Jazz tie series by beating Nuggets



DENVER (AP)—With Utah running out of big bodies, Deron Williams carried an even bigger load in leading the Jazz to a 114-111 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night in Game 2 of their Western Conference playoffs.

Williams had 33 points and 14 assists and Carlos Boozer added 20 points and 15 rebounds as the injury-riddled Jazz tied the series at a win each with the series shifting to Salt Lake City for Game 3 on Friday night.

Chauncey Billups' 3-point attempt from the top of the key in the closing seconds hit off the back iron and the Nuggets walked dejectedly off the court.

Williams and Kyle Korver made two free throws each in the final 11 seconds to hold off the Nuggets, who had overcome a 14-point third-quarter deficit to take a 102-98 lead with 4 1/2 minutes left.

Utah was playing without two of its most experienced playoff performers in forward Andrei Kirilenko (calf), who is out for this series, and center Mehmet Okur, who tore his left Achilles' tendon in Game 1 and is done for the playoffs.

The Nuggets couldn't capitalize as Kyrylo Fesenko played effectively on Nene, and Carmelo Anthony was flustered despite scoring 32 points just 48 hours after his playoff-best 42-point performance in the opener.

Anthony made 14 of 15 free throws but was just 9 of 25 from the field.

Denver is 1-11 all-time when Anthony fouls out and he was whistled for his sixth foul with 25 seconds left and the Nuggets down by a point.

The officials blew the call, however. C.J. Miles stepped out of bounds before Anthony fouled him, but the crew didn't see it and Miles made both free throws for a 110-107 lead.

Trailing by 12 points at halftime, the Nuggets floundered through the first 7 minutes of the second half, falling behind 76-62 on Boozer's putback dunk before using a 14-0 run to tie it.

J.R. Smith hit a long 3-pointer during the run, and Anthony stole the ball at the other end, nearly lost it several times dribbling through traffic up court but still managed to put a rim-rattling floater through the net to make it 76-71 and force the Jazz to call a timeout.

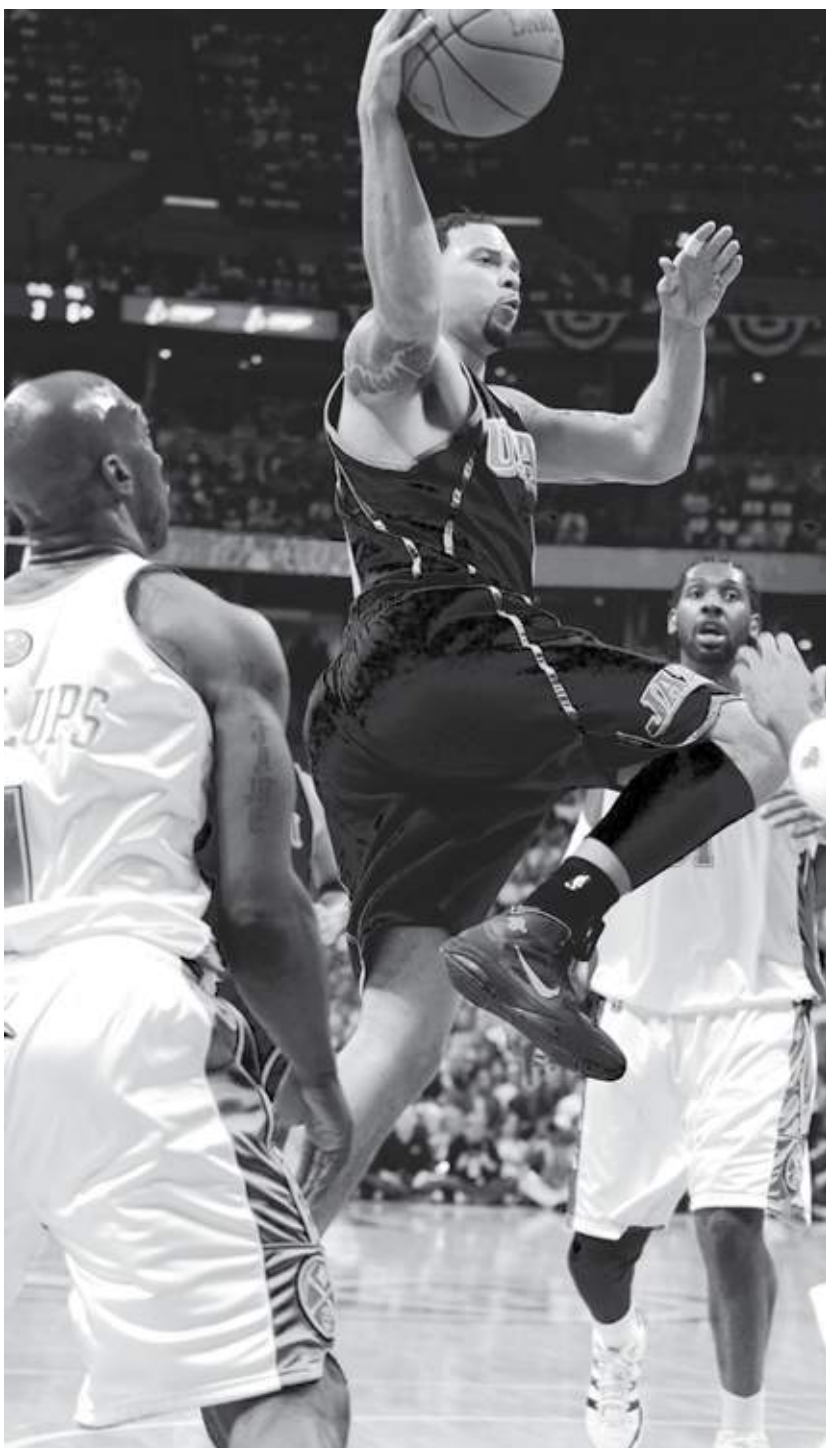
When they returned to the court, the Nuggets continued their run and Anthony's four free throws tied it at 76 with 3 minutes left in the third quarter.

Williams ended a 5-minute scoring drought for Utah with two free throws, and the Jazz recovered to take an 88-82 lead into the fourth quarter thanks to Korver's three jumpers in the final 90 seconds.

The Jazz shot 68 percent in the first half and took a 63-51 lead after closing the half on a 17-3 run that had Denver's fans booing them through the tunnel almost as much as they jeered the officiating crew moments later.

Boozer had four baskets in the run, and rookie Wesley Matthews swished a wide-open 3-pointer from the left corner as the crowd sat in stunned silence as the short-handed Jazz manhandled the Nuggets on both ends.

During Utah's run, Smith missed an uncontested layup, Billups picked up uncharacteristic fouls on both ends of the court and the Nuggets couldn't even get off a final shot, whistled for a



Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams, center, goes up between Denver Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups, front, and forward Nene, of Brazil, in the first quarter of Game 2 of the teams' NBA basketball Western Conference first-round playoff series in Denver on Monday, April 19, 2010.

shot-clock violation with half a second left in the first half.

Fesenko, who packs 300 pounds on his 7-foot-1 frame, gave the Jazz more

bulk inside after they allowed 52 points in the paint in the opener.

"I'm not going to expect him to go out and get 20 rebounds. I think that's

unfair. Or get 20 points," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said before the game. "Just come and play hard, try to understand what we're doing. Try not to make any mistakes."

After Anthony's big game in the opener, the Jazz talked about being more physical with him in Game 2, although Nuggets acting coach Adrian Dantley was skeptical they could do that effectively with young players Matthews and Miles: "They're not Kirilenko. They're not Matt Harpring," Dantley said.

Cavaliers 112, Bulls 102

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 40 points and took over in the fourth quarter as the Cleveland Cavaliers maintained home-court advantage by beating the Bulls to take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

James added eight rebounds and eight assists for the Cavs, who led 96-93 with 4:30 left before the league's soon-to-be-two-time Most Valuable Player decided to dominate.

James dropped a 3-pointer that he capped with a quick dance move and wink toward Chicago's bench, made two free throws, a layup and two jumpers, scoring 11 straight as Cleveland opened a 107-98 lead with 1:36 left.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Chicago.

Antawn Jamison scored 14 points and Jamario Moon made four 3-pointers for Cleveland, which looked much more out of sync than in Game 1. Shaquille O'Neal, a force at both ends in the opener, scored eight points and played only 15 minutes - zero in the fourth quarter.

James spent the first 3:26 of the fourth on the bench getting rest. When he returned to the court, the Cavs were clinging to an 85-82 lead over the Bulls, who were giving top-seeded Cleveland all it could handle and were intent on evening the best-of-seven series.

With the Cavs up three points, James then pulled up for his 3-pointer over Noah, who had criticized Cleveland's superstar for dancing on the court in a game earlier this season. James, though, gave a little shoul-

der shake after his basket and then capped his personal outburst with a jumper over Kirk Hinrich just before the 24-second clock expired.

"In Game 1, I was very hesitant and trying to feel out the defense too much," said James, who went 16 of 23 from the field. "They were giving me the jump shot and I just wasn't taking it. I watched a lot of film from Game 1 and knew as soon as I caught it they would back up and I could get an opportunity to shoot a jumper."

"I just had to take it."

The Bulls, who pushed Boston to seven games in the opening round last season, did a much better job rebounding and were more physical than in Game 1.

But Chicago had no answer for James. No one does.

He delivered one of those did-he-really-do-that dunks in the first quarter, a soaring slam over Chicago's James Johnson that could be one of the best—and most ferocious—of his career.

Staring from the left side, James drove to his right past Johnson down the foul line, reached back like a baseball pitcher looking for more velocity on his fastball and powered his jam over a stunned Johnson as Cleveland's sellout crowd gasped and then erupted.

The dunk shook the backboard, not the Bulls.

They trailed by 10 points early in the second quarter, but worked their way back with extra effort, especially on the offensive glass.

Noah grabbed four of Chicago's eight offensive rebounds in the first half, resulting in 13 second-chance points. Anthony Parker's 3-pointer put the Cavs up 50-44, but with O'Neal on the bench after picking up his third personal, Noah scored six straight points as the Bulls pulled within 52-50 at halftime.

"They kept scrapping," James said.

During an on-court TV interview, James lamented the easy baskets the Bulls were getting and promised the Cavs would "clean up our defense" in the second half.

The Bulls, though, still got to the rim and only James' outside shooting saved Cleveland.

Wallace: Bobcats can't let Howard be the 'bully'

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Gerald Wallace spoke with a bit of feistiness and flavor Monday, fed up with the notion his Charlotte Bobcats might be intimidated by Dwight Howard's presence in the paint.

So this time Wallace sent an ever-so small shot back.

"We're not going to just let him think he's the bully or that he's a factor up under the basket," Wallace said, "because he's not."

Say this about the Bobcats: They still have some fight.

Their offensive efficiency was a tale of two halves in their Game 1 loss to the Orlando Magic on Sunday. Charlotte turned into a perimeter shooting team when Howard swatted eight shots in the first—nine for the game—and was pushed out of the paint.

The Bobcats went down by 22 points, and sputtered until the reigning defensive player of the year hit foul trouble in the third quarter. To have any chance to even the best-of-seven series when it resumes Wednesday in

Orlando, they know they have to score more around the rim.

Even if that means on Howard.

"He's a shot blocker, and we're a team that attacks the rim," Wallace said. "You put those two together, and somebody has to win."

Score the first round for Orlando.

But the Bobcats believe they have more than a puncher's chance.

Their attacking style in the second half nearly led them to an upset of the second-seeded and defending Eastern Conference champion Magic. Charlotte closed the gap to five points in the final minutes, driving to the basket with more pop that forced Howard into foul trouble.

"That's why he had a lot of blocks, because we were taking it in there," Bobcats point guard Raymond Felton said. "We can't be intimidated that he's going to block our shots. We got him in foul trouble. He had nine blocks, but he also almost fouled out."

Monday also offered the Bobcats hope they could make a series turnaround.

The nervousness players said they had in the franchise's first-ever playoff game was washed away, and playful joking and trick shots were back after practice. Felton, for instance, said the "chills" he felt before Game 1 were gone.

Confidence that they were close started to take shape.

"To know that you're able to win this series, I think we got a chance. I like our chances. Granted, they're a great team. But so are we," Felton said.

Perhaps the best news of the day for Charlotte came with an MRI on Stephen Jackson's hyperextended left knee that showed a small bone bruise but no structural damage.

The Bobcats swingman sat out practice and had an ice wrap around his knee. He walked with a slight limp but expects to start in Game 2.

"It's real sore," Jackson said. "It's way sorer than it was yesterday. But hopefully come Wednesday, the little swelling it has will go down."

Or as Bobcats coach Larry Brown

put it, "I think if the MRI said he had an ACL (tear), he'd play anyway."

Now if only the entire team would play so fearlessly.

Charlotte's second-half scrappiness at least provided them with some confidence that the series might not be so lopsided. The pushing and pulling on Howard kept the All-Star center grounded offensively, holding him to five points and seven rebounds.

While Orlando's center was frustrated offensively and played only 27 minutes because of foul trouble, his defense was enough of a force for Brown to call him the "most valuable player" of the game afterward.

The Bobcats' approach is simple: drive at Howard even harder in Game 2, and live with the results.

"We're going to keep going at him, and we're going to keep attacking," Wallace said. "If he ends up with 20 blocks, he ends up with 20 blocks. He's going to have to work for his 20 blocks."

"We don't have anybody on this team that's afraid to attack the basket."

Davis makes debut in Mets' 6-1 win over Cubs



NEW YORK

(AP)—Angel Pagan hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning for New York's first extra-base hit since Friday and top prospect Ike Davis had an RBI single in his debut for the Mets as they beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1 Monday night.

New York's Jonathon Niese and Chicago's Randy Wells each allowed a run.

Fernando Nieve pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win after Niese went 5 2-3 innings and allowed eight hits and an unearned run, striking out seven.

Wells gave up six hits and a run, but the Mets rallied once he left, following Pagan's homer with Jason Bay's RBI double, Davis' single, and a wild pitch by Sean Marshall for a five-run seventh.

Jose Reyes pinch-hit to lead off the inning and was hit by a pitch from James Russell (0-1).

Padres 3, Giants 2, 10 innings

At San Diego, David Eckstein homered in the bottom of the 10th inning to give San Diego its fourth straight win.

Eckstein's leadoff shot against Jeremy Affeldt just made it inside the left-field foul pole.

San Francisco leveled the game at 2-all in the ninth when Juan Uribe hit a hanging 3-2 curveball into the left-field stands off Padres closer Heath Bell with one out.

It was Bell's first blown save in four chances.

Adrian Gonzalez and Will Venable hit sacrifice flies to give the Padres a 2-1 lead heading into the ninth before Uribe's second home run.

Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Matt Holliday went 3 for 5 with his fourth home run of the season and Brad Penny had his third strong outing as St. Louis opened a six-game road trip by handing Arizona its fifth loss in a row.

The go-ahead run came in the eighth inning on Colby Rasmus' double, followed two batters later by a fielding error by Arizona first baseman Adam LaRoche. Rasmus singled in a run off struggling Chad Qualls in the ninth.

Penny threw six scoreless innings after the Diamondbacks scored twice in the first. Holliday's two-run homer off Arizona starter Rodrigo Lopez tied it in the fifth. Ryan Franklin tossed a perfect ninth for his fifth save in five opportunities.

Nationals 5, Rockies 2

At Washington, Willie Harris hit a homer and drove in four runs, Craig Stammen recovered from his shortest start in the majors with eight strong innings, and Washington moved back over .500 by beating Colorado before the smallest announced crowd in Nationals Park history.

Only 11,623 spectators saw Stammen hold Colorado to two runs and five hits, lowering his ERA from 15.63 to 8.16. Against the Phillies on Wednesday, the right-hander lasted 1 1-3 innings, allowing seven runs.

Matt Capps pitched the ninth for his sixth save in six chances.

Harris drove the first pitch he saw from Aaron Cook into the home bull-



New York Mets' Ike Davis breaks his bat on a hit during a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in New York, Monday, April 19, 2010.

pen beyond right field for a three-run shot in the second inning.

Rays 8, Red Sox 2

At Boston, B.J. Upton capped a five-run

third inning with a three-run homer as the Tampa Bay Rays completed a four-

Goodell: Roethlisberger violated NFL policy



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ben Roethlisberger zipped passes to his wide receivers, exchanged jokes with teammates and smiled throughout his first workout since the Pittsburgh Steelers missed out on the playoffs.

Business as usual for one of the NFL's most-accomplished quarterbacks? Hardly.

At the same time Roethlisberger was practicing for the first time this spring, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell was telling a radio audience Monday that the quarterback violated the NFL's personal-conduct policy with his "pattern of behavior" and "bad judgments."

Roethlisberger was accused of sexually assaulting a 20-year-old college student in a Georgia nightclub last month, although he will not face criminal charges. Roethlisberger does face disciplinary action by the NFL, including a likely suspension, following the release of documents outlining tawdry behavior by the two-time Super Bowl winner.

"The issue here is with respect to a pattern of behavior and bad judgments," Goodell said on the Dan Patrick radio show. "You do not have to be convicted or even charged with a crime to be able to demonstrate that you've violated a personal-conduct policy, and reflect poorly not only on themselves, but all of their teammates, every NFL player in the league, and everyone associated with the NFL. That is what my concern is, and I have expressed that directly to Ben, obviously, and I'll be making a decision as soon as I possibly can."

The Steelers are anticipating a suspension lasting as many as four games that could be announced next week. Goodell also could issue a conditional suspension, much as he did in the Michael Vick case, in which the length of punishment isn't determined for months.

Even if he is suspended, Roethlisberger could practice and take part in preseason games.

The Steelers didn't take action against Roethlisberger themselves to avoid a possible appeal from the players' union. However, several players said the club outlined to them, during a Monday meeting with coach Mike Tomlin, a newly adopted zero-tolerance policy in which unacceptable player conduct will be dealt with harshly and swiftly.

In what apparently was the first case of the rule being implemented, former Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes was traded to the Jets for a fifth-round draft pick last week following a series of problems.

"We were told early this morning that either you get in line or you'll get kicked out of line. You're going to be traded or you're not going to be here," right tackle Willie Colon said. "If your conduct is going to play a part in you not being a good football player, they're going to get rid of you."

Roethlisberger also is being sued by a different woman who says he raped her in 2008 at a Lake Tahoe hotel-casino. Roethlisberger denies the accusation and was not charged. The NFL is not considering that case while weighing its punishment.

While his teammates realize they might start the season without the

quarterback who led them to four double-digit win seasons the past six seasons, most are supporting him. None publicly rebuked him.

"He's a fun guy, likes to joke around and have a good time. He's easy to get along with. I've never had any problems with him," defensive end Aaron Smith said. "Like a big kid, kind of, hanging out."

Several were confused by the latest accusations, which they said don't mesh with the Roethlisberger they know.

"It's not as if Ben is just some crazy (guy), an enemy or just a person who's so terrible," said wide receiver Antwaan Randle El, who rejoined the Steelers after four seasons with Washington. "We're dealing with it, we have dealt with it and we're moving on. It's better now certainly than during the season."

Randle El also said, "Some of us have had the same situations, they just didn't come to light. We can't point the finger at everyone." He did not elaborate.

Colon, who reportedly accompanied Roethlisberger on the trip to Georgia, declined to discuss any details but defended his friend.

"I know Ben's a standup guy, I know he's learned from his mistakes," Colon said. "I'm going to stand behind him and we're going to move on."

While some Steelers fans are calling for Roethlisberger to be traded, Smith can't imagine why the team wouldn't want to keep him.

"Wouldn't you?" Smith said. "The man's a great quarterback. I mean he comes out there and he wins games. And that's what we're in the business of doing, winning games."

game sweep of the Boston Red Sox with a win in the annual Patriots Day game.

Jeff Niemann pitched seven sharp innings to help Tampa Bay win its seventh straight, all on the road, and match the club's best winning streak away from Tropicana Field in one season.

It was also Tampa Bay's first sweep of a series three games or more in Fenway Park.

John Lackey, who signed a 5-year, \$82.5-million contract with Boston during the offseason, allowed eight runs and nine hits in only 3 1-3 innings.

The Red Sox are off to their worst start since opening 1996. Boston was 0 for 30 with runners in scoring position in the series, with Jeremy Hermida's two-run homer the only runs in the series finale.

Mariners 8, Orioles 2

At Seattle, Doug Fister took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Ken Griffey Jr. and Casey Kotchman combined to drive in five runs in Seattle's win.

After a two-out walk in the first, Fister retired the next 16 batters before Nick Markakis opened the seventh with a clean single to center.

Griffey had a two-run single in the Mariners' 7-run third inning and Kotchman hit a two-run home run in the third and a RBI double in the seventh.

Jack Wilson also had three hits, including two doubles.

Orioles starter Brad Bergesen lasted only 2 2-3 innings. He was charged with six hits, seven runs, though only four were earned, and walked three without a strikeout.

Fister finished with three hits and one seven innings. He walked one and struck on three.

Angels 2, Tigers 0

At Anaheim, California, Joel Pineiro pitched into the eighth inning and Fernando Rodney got the save against his former team, closing out Los Angeles' win over Detroit.

The Angels won their fourth straight after beginning the season 2-6.

Pineiro allowed nine hits in 7 1-3 innings, struck out four and walked none.

The right-hander started two inning-ending double plays—one on a line drive by Alexei Avila that trapped Brandon Inge off first base in the second, the other on a comebacker by Miguel Cabrera in the sixth.

Dontrelle Willis allowed two runs and four hits over seven innings and struck out two.

Blue Jays 8, Royals 1

At Toronto, Jose Bautista hit two home runs and Brandon Morrow pitched seven innings as the Blue Jays ended a three-game losing streak.

Travis Snider also homered to help the Blue Jays win for the 18th time in 22 home games against Kansas City.

Attendance was 10,314, the smallest crowd in the 22-year history of Rogers Centre and breaking the mark set last Wednesday, when Toronto drew 10,610 for a game against the Chicago White Sox.

Morrow allowed one run and three hits, lowering his ERA from 12.00 to 7.31. He walked two and struck out eight.

Kansas City right-hander Brian Bannister allowed six runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings, raising his ERA from 2.19 to 4.58.

Man Amigos turn back Xterminators

By **WALTER J. SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



ManAmigosjumped the gun early against Advance Xterminators before hanging on to a 15-10 victory in the 2010 Budweiser Chamolinian Softball League Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Man Amigos putt up seven runs in the top of the first inning. The juggernaut started with a solo shot by Julian Camacho.

After the homer, Man Amigos set the table for a three-run shot by Joey Dela Cruz which was immediately followed by a solo homer by Eric Palacios.

After the hail of home runs, Joe Torres and Mike Sablan each singled an RBI to give

Man Amigos an early 7-0 lead.

John Taitano hit a two RBI single in the bottom half of the first inning for the Xterminators to make the score 7-2.

After the first inning, Xterminators struggled swinging the bats and only managed one base runner in the second and third innings combined.

For Man Amigos, Camacho was awarded a base on balls and Manny Sablan knocked him in during the top of the second inning.

In the third, an error and another walk came back to hurt Xterminators as Joe Torres, James Fleming, John Terlaje, and Camacho each batted in RBI singles.

To start the fourth inning, Palacios singled in J.J. Laniyo to mark a one-run top of the

fourth for Man Amigos.

Later with one out in the bottom half of the fourth, Poland Masaharu hit a triple for Xterminators and two batters later, Ron Benavente hustled out an inside-the-park homer-un thanks to some fielding errors by Man Amigos.

After a scoreless fifth inning from both teams, the score remained at 13-4, Man Amigos.

To start the sixth inning, Man Amigos moved around two more runs with the help of some throwing errors by Xterminators.

In the bottom half of the sixth inning, Sonny Sablan led off with a double for Xterminators and was later singled in by Dennis Ngeskebei. With Ngeskebei on first, Jay Cabrera hit a double

to put runners on second and third with one out.

The next batter, Masaharu drew a walk which set up a grand slam blast by John Taitano to mark a big five-run sixth inning for Xterminators.

With the score 13-9 after six, Xterminators fended off Man Amigos with a 1-2-3 defensive seventh inning.

However, Xterminators fell short in the end as they managed only a run before being exterminated by Man Amigos.

Players of the game for Man Amigos were Dela Cruz and Palacios. Dela Cruz batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs and one homer run and Palacios batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a homer.

Other notables of the game included John Taitano who batted 2-for-3 with five RBIs in a losing effort.

Chura 17, Red Eye 5

Chura recorded its 12th win against four losses after wiping the floor clean with Red Eye, 17-4, also last Friday.

Red Eye got behind early as the home team's first three batters found their way on and around the bases to mark a 3-0 lead after the first inning and Chura never looked back.

Players of the game Chura were Pete Tomokane and Tyrone Omar. Tomokane batted 4-for-4 with three runs, four RBIs, and a homer, while Omar went 4-for-4 with three runs, three RBIs, and a round-tripper.

The loss dropped Red Eye to a dismal 4-13 record.

Natibu 16, G-Ballers 1

League leader Natibu continued its sparkling play following its

16-6 mastery in five innings against G-Ballers.

The win Friday night was the 15th in 16 tries for Natibu, while the loss dropped G-Ballers to 3-13 slate.

Bruce Norita and B.J. Sablan shone brightest for Natibu, as both went 3-for-3 with four RBIs. Norita hit one homerun and Sablan recorded two homers.

Berdax 16, Freedom Air 12

In the last game of the night, Berdax surprised Freedom Air Flyers in a count of 16-12.

The victory improved Berdax's standing to 6-9, while exacting Freedom Air its seventh loss in 16 games this season.

Jack Guerrero was the player of the game for Berdax, batting 3-for-3 with two homeruns and five RBIs.

MOBIL

From Page 28

Mobil in the driver's seat at the break, 54-50. Ruluked added seven markers in the second-quarter rally and scored 10 more points in the third to keep Mobil in front, 77-75, entering the final quarter.

Ruluked and Ajoste were still unstoppable in the final canto

and drew enough help from their teammates to hand PIC its sixth loss in 12 games.

TBK 80, McGraw-Hill 78

In the first game, TBK Auto Shop survived a McGraw-Hill comeback to pull off an 80-78 win.

After trailing by as much as 10 in the fourth quarter, 71-61, McGraw-Hill recovered behind

Peter Mendiola and Walter Mendez. McGraw-Hill moved within two, 77-79, and had a chance to send the game into overtime when Jacob Villagomez was fouled and trooped to the stripe for a pair of free throws with five seconds left on the clock.

However, Villagomez split his charities and McGraw-Hill was forced to give up a foul to stop the clock. Kae Bernardo made

his first free throw and missed the second one, and McGraw-Hill ran out of time and wasn't able to attempt a decent shot.

Bernardo paced TBK with 23 points, improving his team's record to 9-4. Bart Demapan chipped in 16, while Jun Pantaleon and Melvin Capalad contributed 15 and 13, respectively.

Mendiola had 28 points for McGraw-Hill, which played

with only six players before Mendez reported for the game midway in the final canto.

First Game

TBK 80 – Bernardo 23, Demapan 16, Pantaleon 15, Capalad 13, Castro 9, De Vero 5.

McGraw-Hill 78 – Mendiola 26, Diaz 14, Cabrera 14, Buniag 12, Villagomez 5, Mendez 5.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16,

32-37, 55-54, 80-78.

Second Game

Mobil 108 – Ruluked 31, Ajoste 21, Manalo 16, Estolas 15, Jose 10, Galzote 7, Demapan 6, Deocares 2.

PIC 103 – D. Barbo 28, Williams 25, Jung 20, Yabut 17, Bauta 9, Sublemente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-29, 54-50, 77-75, 108-103.

PACIFIC

From Page 28

Fiji and qualifiers in the West, East, and North featured only 14-and-under and 18-and-under players.

"There are exciting changes ahead for junior tennis in the Pacific. I believe these changes will greatly benefit tennis in our region, both in the immediate future and for years to come," Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race said.

Under the new setup, only the North Pacific, where the CNMI is a member, and East

Pacific qualifying tournaments for POJC will be affected by the age group changes.

There will be 16-player draws for U14 and U12 and travel and accommodation assistance will be available only for these two age groups.

The West is exempted in the said new rule, as its member-nations had already identified their players and many of the its U18 players are also at RTC in Lautoka and the opportunity for them to have a tournament involving other players is important.

Selection for the North and East qualifiers will be Top 4 players in U14 (no more than

two representatives for one nation); Top 3 in the U12 (all three cannot be from same nation); and only Top 2 in the U18 (irrespective of the nation).

"As an interim measure to ensure there is still an opportunity for U18 there will be a small event with a maximum of two players from each visiting nation in order to select players to attend the POJC. No travel grant assistance will be provided for the qualifying event for U18 players," O'Rourke stated in his letter.

At the POJC, which will be held in August, there will be a 16-player draw for U14, 12-player draw for both U12 (three

from each region and three wild cards) and U18 (two from each regional event and six on ITF rankings or wildcards).

"Travel assistance to the POJC will be provided for players in all categories from each of the qualifying events. In the U14, there will be four travel grants (no more than two players per nation) for boys and girls, in U12, there will be two travel grants for boys and girls (winner and runner-up), and in U18, there will be two travel grants for boys and girls (winner and runner-up). The third player in U12 will be invited but there will not be a travel grant," O'Rourke said.

NORIKO

From Page 28

10 with Togawa shooting a 43 and 41 on the front and back nine for the second best gross score of 84. Noriko's daughter—Yuko—recorded the best gross score of the day at 80. Three other female golfers—Kimiko Abe, Lorraine Babauta, and Miyamoto—were tied for second place with identical gross score of 87.

In the second round played on the east course, Noriko was consistent with her game, carding a 40 on both nines for a gross score of 80 and a two-day total

of 164. Noriko won by only one shot against Yuko, who tallied a 165 for two days, as she struggled in the second round with an 85 (42 and 43).

Shiori Onoue, who tied Noriko in the first round with her gross 84, dropped to third place after tallying an 83 in the second round for a two-day total of 167.

Rounding out to the Top 5 were Grace Wang and Babauta, who posted 168 and 169, respectively. Wang had a decent showing in the first round with her 85 and improved her game in the second round on April 11 with an 82. Babauta also performed better on the east course than the

west, firing an 82 in the second against her 87 in the first.

Miyamoto failed to make it to the Top 10 in the lowest gross, but finished on top of the field in the low net with her 149. Miyamoto had an 11 handicap on the west course, cutting her first round gross score (87) to net 75. In the second round, she earned an 11 handicap on the east course, dropping her gross score of 85 to a net 74.

Miyamoto prevailed by only one stroke against Kim Yang and Terry Tudela, who ended up with identical net scores of 150. Yang (net 75 and 75) won in the tiebreak to finish sec-

ond, while Tudela (net 72 and 78) settled for third.

There was also a tie for fourth to fifth place with Kyung Ran Seo and Ukita Terue tallying similar net scores of 152. Seo (72 and 80) defeated Terue (77 and 75) in the scorecard tiebreak.

Twenty-two players joined the two-day tournament, which gathered all 12 monthly winners of the association. Margaret Tenorio was among the 22 participants and shot the lowest net for two days with her 136 (62 and 74), but could not win the title, as she failed to meet the required number of tournaments for a year.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

Sablan was simply masterful on the mound, allowing just three hits, a walk, and four strikeouts as he thoroughly dominated the Falcons' batters.

After the Falcons scored

their lone run in the fourth, they failed to reach first base for the rest of the game and went 1-2-3 in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth innings.

With Sablan pitching so well and a 10-1 lead after four innings, the Fielders knew how close they were to ending the game early.

The Falcons managed to hold

the Fielders scoreless for the fifth, sixth, and seventh, when Eli Aughenbaugh blasted a triple with one out.

The next batter, Ryan Ada, was hit by a pitch to bring up, designated hitter, J.D. Sablan with runners on the corners and one out.

Sablan grounded to third and the Falcons attempted a

double play from first to home, but Aughenbaugh beat out the throw to the plate to run rule the Falcons 11-1 in eight innings.

The 2010 SML continues today with the undefeated St. Michael Rangers (7-0) taking on Miller Lite Brewers (2-4). D9ers is currently alone in the cellar, having lost its first six assignments.

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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

MISO High School Canoe Championships

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of the Marianas High School boys team near the shore for a first place finish in the finals of 500m race in the MISO High School Canoe Championships held in the waters off Kilili Beach on April 10.



The MHS Lady Dolphins paddle to a first place finish in the 1,500m preliminary race.



A member of race volunteer group Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club signals to participating teams.



Mt. Carmel Lady Knights cool down after completing the preliminary 500m race.



The Kagman Lady Ayuyus near the finish line in the 1,500m race.



Members of Saipan Southern High School boys team in action during the 500m finals race.



A Lady Dolphin paddler is congratulated by teammates after winning the 1,500m finals.



Southern paddlers huddle before the start of the races.



Kagman High School paddlers do a stretching drill before the 1,500m race.



Mt. Carmel's boys team paddle back to the starting line.



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Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mobil extends win streak; TBK triumphs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil recorded the longest winning streak in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, following its 108-103 triumph over Pacific Islands Club on Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The win was Mobil's eighth in a row, shattering Micronesians Brokers, Inc.'s earlier record of seven. The Marvin Deocares-coached Mobil has been unbeaten for over a month since its 72-85 loss to McGraw-Hill on March 12.

The victory was 10th in 13 games overall for Mobil, putting the team in third place behind Aqua Resort Club (10-2) and MBI (9-2).

Mobil drew double figures from four players, matching PIC's firepower and eventually outgunning the San Antonio-based team in the fourth quarter.

Bryan Ajoste and Gyles Ruloked scored eight points apiece in the fourth canto and finished with 31 and 21 markers, respectively. Jun Estolas and J.P. Jose added four apiece in the final canto and ended up with 15 and 10 points, respectively. Manolo Manalo contributed 16 points.

Darwin Barbo paced PIC with 28 points, drilling 11 of them in the first quarter to give his team a 29-21 lead.

Ajoste, who was scoreless in the first canto, answered with his own 11-point explosion in the second period to put

See MOBIL on Page 26



TBK Auto Shop's Mark Castro elevates for a layup against McGraw-Hill's Jerry Diaz during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fielders shoot down Falcons

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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Fielders strengthened its hold on second place after riding the arm of pitcher Ben Sablan

to an 11-1 victory over the Falcons in the 2010 Saipan Major League Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The 10-run mercy rule victory was the fourth in seven games for the Fielders, while the loss dropped the Falcons to a 2-6 win-loss card.

The action kicked off in the bottom of the second inning as Jason Reyes belted a two-run double for the Fielders.

The Falcons failed to answer until the top of the fourth inning when Joshua Jones reached base with a double and moved in to score off two wild pitches.

With the score 2-1 after four and half innings, the Fielders' bats came alive to mark an eight-run effort in the bottom of the fourth.

The first four batters for the Fielders reached base before Falcons pitcher Tony Joab was relieved by Drew Magofna.

Magofna could not stop the bleeding for the Falcons as both pitchers allowed four runs each in the bottom half of the fourth.

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Pacific tennis program shifts gear to U12

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Oceania Tennis Federation is changing course as far as development of the sport in the region is concerned, putting premium to programs for younger players starting this year.

"The ITF has made alterations to the age groups for the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the qualifying competitions which some of you participate in. There will be a U12 competition and an interim format for U18 this year which will alter in 2011," said OTF executive officer Patrick O'Rourke in a letter sent to OTF members.

"ITF and OTF hopes you will support this program which provides new opportunities for our younger players and also a pathway forward for U18 players which ITF offers in other developing tennis nations," O'Rourke added.

In the past, competitions in POJC in

See PACIFIC on Page 26



The Pacific Oceania Junior Championships will now have a 12-and-under competition this year, giving Clayton Izuka, seen here competing in last week's CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the AMP tennis courts, and company a chance to join the annual event in Fiji.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Noriko, Masayo top 2010 CWGA tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Noriko Togawa and Masayo Miyamoto shared the victory ride in the 3rd Annual CNMI Women's Golf Association Tournament played on

both courses of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort early this month.

Togawa won in the low gross category, while Miyamoto prevailed in the low net division.

The first round of the two-round championship was played on the west course of the Kagman facility on April

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Participants in the 3rd Annual CNMI Women's Golf Association Tournament pose for a group photo before competing on the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort early this month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO